

Abortion Issue Polarizing Vote For US Women



Susan B. Anthony List President Marjorie Dannenfelser speaking in Arlington, Va. The Susan B. Anthony List group is running anti-Obama TV ads titled "Abortion Radical" in Arlington, Virginia.

(AP Photo/Jeff Adkins)

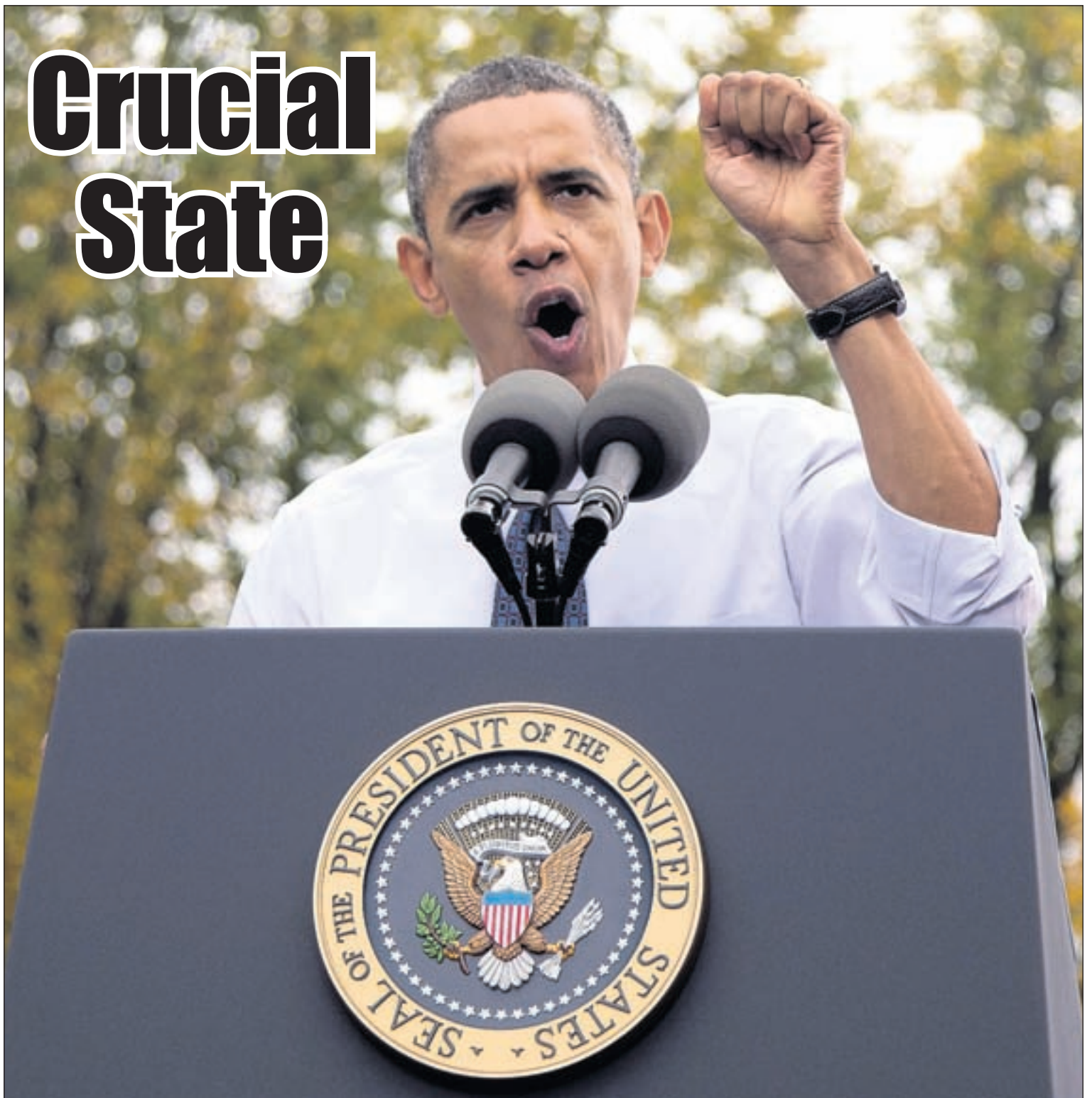
DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Polls show that abortion isn't the top issue for most Americans as the presidential election looms next month. But both sides are rallying emotions on the passionate subject in the hopes of making a difference in what remains a tight race. There's extra intensity this year because President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney, reflecting their party platforms, are so polarized on abortion, and because the women's vote is a major factor in the race. A new Gallup poll released Wednesday found that nearly 40 percent of female registered voters surveyed in 12 battleground states that will decide the election consider abortion the most important issue for women — even outranking jobs. The Nov. 6 election is decided state by state, not by popular national vote. Obama and Romney rarely tackle the topic directly.

Continued on next page

Crucial State



President Barack Obama gestures as he speaks about the choice facing women in the upcoming election, Friday, Oct. 19, 2012, at a campaign event at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

Jobless rates dip in battleground states

CLEVELAND (AP) — Unemployment rates fell last month in nearly all of the battleground states that will determine the presidential winner, giving President Barack Obama fresh fodder to argue that voters should stick with him in an election focused squarely on the economy.

The declines, however, were modest. It's unknown

whether they will do much to sway undecided voters who are considering whether to back Republican Mitt Romney or give the Democratic president four more years.

The statewide data released by the Labor Department on Friday provide one of the last comprehensive looks at the health of the U.S. econ-

omy ahead of Election Day, now a little more than two weeks away. Voters will get one more update on the national unemployment rate just days before the election. But the state reports matter greatly to the Obama and Romney campaigns, which believe the public's impressions of the economy are shaped mostly by local conditions

rather than national ones. In Ohio, perhaps the most crucial battleground state for both Obama and Romney, the unemployment rate ticked down last month to 7 percent from 7.2 percent, below the national average of 7.8 percent.

Continued on next page

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Abortion issue remains in campaign spotlight

Continued from front

The void is being filled by rival advocacy groups targeting those battleground states with ads depicting one candidate or the other as an extremist in his stance.

The National Right to Life Committee says Obama is "the most pro-abortion president this country has ever seen." Another anti-abortion group, the Susan B. Anthony List, is running anti-Obama TV ads titled "Abortion Radical."

Groups supporting legal access to abortion, as well as the Obama campaign itself, depict Romney and running mate Rep. Paul Ryan as eager to ban most abortions as part of a Republican "war on women." The Republican ticket "is extremely dangerous to women's health," says Nancy Keenan, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America. Obama believes decisions about abortion should be left to women and their doctors. Romney opposes abortion except in cases of rape, incest and threat to the mother's life, and he says the Supreme Court should repeal the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that established a nationwide right to abortion. He also would end federal aid to Planned Parenthood, a non-government group which is a major provider of abortion and contraception.

Mark Rozell, a political science professor at George

Mason University in the battleground state of Virginia, said the abortion debate could play a crucial role in the election even as the

Register's editorial board that there wasn't any abortion-related legislation he planned to pursue as president. A spokeswoman



Supporters from both sides of the abortion issue share the sidewalk next to the Planned Parenthood clinic in West Glenwood, Colo. Though Barack Obama and Mitt Romney rarely tackle the topic of abortion head-on, the void is being filled by rival advocacy groups targeting swing states with ads depicting one candidate or the other as an extremist in his stance on the divisive issue. Obama, according to the National Right to Life Committee, is "the most pro-abortion president this country has ever seen." Another anti-abortion group,

(AP Photo/Kelley Cox)

economy remains the biggest concern.

"The social issues do matter to a significant portion of voters, especially certain swing voters who might see a candidate's position on abortion as a marker," Rozell said. "Can they trust this candidate to govern responsibly, or is he beholden to an extreme element in his political party?"

Rozell said Romney faces a tricky balancing act as he tries to appeal to middle-of-the-road women without antagonizing religious conservatives who already are wary because Romney supported abortion rights in the past. Last week, Romney told The Des Moines

quickly clarified his remark, and Romney told reporters: "I'll be a pro-life president." Planned Parenthood, through its political action affiliates, has spent more on this election than any in the past — more than \$12 million, with about half the money going for TV ads in Florida, Virginia, Ohio and other battleground states. Dawn Laguens, executive vice president of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, said a large chunk of the money had been donated by new contributors eager to fight back against Republican efforts to restrict abortion at the state and federal level. □

Jobless rates dip in battleground states

Continued from front

"I knew a lot of people who were laid off and now they're working," said firefighter Matt Sparling, an Obama supporter from Parma Heights, Ohio. "So something good is happening here."

Obama's team is banking on the president getting credit for improvements in Ohio's economy, particularly for the bailout of the auto industry, which has deep roots in the Midwestern swing state. But Romney has opportunities to run on the economy in Ohio, too. The state actually lost nearly 13,000 jobs in September and the drop in the unemployment rate was probably due in part to people dropping out of the job market.

Obama's campaign released a new ad in Ohio on Friday, touting the president's rescue of General Motors and Chrysler. Without the auto bailout, one man in the ad says, "Ohio would have collapsed." Another man says, "Mitt Romney would have just let us go under — just let them go bankrupt." The ad's tagline shows the map of Ohio with the words: "Mitt Romney. Not one of us."

The president didn't mention the state jobless numbers during a campaign stop Friday in Virginia, one of two battleground states where the rate didn't drop. It held steady at the relatively low level of 5.9 percent.

Spirited on other topics, Obama quipped in a raucous rally at George Mason University that a case of "Romnesia" was preventing his opponent from remembering his own stances on health care, energy and a slate of policies. "He's forgetting what his own positions are — and he's betting that you will, too," Obama said. "We've got to name this condition that he's going through. I think it's called Romnesia." Romney was headlining a rally in Florida Friday evening after spending much of the day in New York meeting with advisers.

The candidates were stepping off the campaign trail this weekend for debate preparations ahead of Monday's third and final face-off in Boca Raton, Fla. Romney was staying in South Florida to practice, while Obama and top aides headed to Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland, to prepare for the foreign policy-focused debate.

Despite increased focus on Libya, the economy remains the No. 1 election issue for most voters.

Friday's jobs report showed the unemployment rate falling slightly in seven battleground states: Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio and Wisconsin. Rates held steady at 5.7 percent in New Hampshire and 5.9 percent in Virginia. Unemployment in both states has long been well below the national average. □

AP source:

2 sailors to be punished Colombia in sex scandal

LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two U.S. sailors are expected to receive administrative punishments, but not be criminally charged, in connection with the prostitution scandal that engulfed U.S. Secret Service and military members preparing for a presidential visit to Colombia earlier this year, a senior military official said Friday. The two sailors will be punished for hiring a prostitute and dereliction of duty for drinking within eight hours of the time they had to report for duty, the official said.

More than six months after the scandal erupted, and lengthy efforts to identify and locate witnesses and others involved, the two sailors were expected to be the final military members disciplined in the case. The

official spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to disclose sensitive legal developments.

In the military, nonjudicial or administrative punishments can take a wide variety of forms, from docking service

members' pay or confining them to quarters to assigning them additional duties for a certain length of time. In some cases, it can be a letter of reprimand in their files, but in other cases administrative punishments can be career-ending, or

delay or prevent any future promotions.

Of the dozen military members initially implicated, seven U.S. soldiers and two Marines received administrative punishments for what was described as misconduct, and one Air Force member was cleared. Three of the soldiers declined the administrative punishments and have requested court-martial.

A lawyer for one of the sailors had complained that his client, David Hawley, was not around at the time the prostitutes were alleged to be solicited. The lawyer, Jeremiah Sullivan, said the sailors were unfairly stripped of their security clearances and reassigned to other tasks for months as they waited to see if they would be charged. The names of the other military members have not been made pub-

lic.

The service members were investigated for bringing apparent prostitutes to their hotel rooms in Colombia shortly before President Barack Obama arrived in the country for an April summit, according to the military's investigation of the matter. The investigator's report, released in early August, described the misconduct as consisting "almost exclusively of patronizing prostitutes and adultery."

The scandal came to light after a public dispute over payment between a U.S. Secret Service agent and a prostitute at a Cartagena hotel spilled over into the hallway of the Hotel Caribe. The Secret Service and the military were in the Colombian coastal resort to prepare for Obama's participation in a Latin American summit. □



People walk past Hotel El Caribe in Cartagena, Colombia. Two U.S. sailors are expected to receive administrative punishments, but not be criminally charged, in connection with the prostitution scandal that engulfed U.S. Secret Service and military members preparing for a presidential visit to Colombia earlier this year, a senior military official said Friday.

(AP Photo/Pedro Mendoza)

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Paul Ryan, GOP seize on new Benghazi CIA cable

By KIMBERLY DOZIER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sensing a moment of political vulnerability on national security, Republicans pounced Friday on disclosures that President Barack Obama's administration could have known early on that militants, not angry protesters, launched the attack on U.S. diplomats in Libya.

Within 24 hours of the deadly attack, the CIA station chief in Libya reported to Washington that there were eyewitness reports that the attack was carried out by militants, officials told The Associated Press. But for days, the Obama administration blamed it on an out-of-control demonstration over an American-



Republican Vice President candidate Paul Ryan signs the baseball cap of a supporter as he leaves after talking to about 1500 people during his visit to the Ocala downtown square Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012, in Ocala, Fla. Ryan led Friday's charge on disclosures that President Barack Obama's administration could have known early on that militants, not angry protesters, launched the attack on U.S. diplomats in Libya.

(AP Photo/Ocala Star-Banner, Doug Engle)

policy. "I'm excited we're going to have a chance to talk about that on Monday," Ryan said.

Obama, speaking Thursday on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," insisted that information was shared with the American people as it came in. The attack is under investigation, Obama said, and "the picture eventually gets filled in."

"What happens, during the course of a presidency, is that the government is a big operation and any given time something screws up," Obama said. "And you make sure that you find out what's broken and you fix it." The report from the station chief was written late Wednesday, Sept. 12, and reached intelligence agencies in Washington the next day, intelligence officials said. It is not clear how widely the information from the CIA station chief was circulated.

U.S. intelligence officials have said the information was just one of many widely conflicting accounts, which became clearer by the following week.

Democrats have spent the past week explaining the administration's handling of the attack. On Monday, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said a period of uncertainty typically follows attacks.

"In the wake of an attack like this, in the fog of war, there's always going to be confusion," Clinton said. "And I think it is absolutely fair to say that everyone had the same intelligence. Everyone who spoke tried to give the information that they had."

On Tuesday, Obama and Romney argued over when the president first called it a terrorist attack. In his Rose Garden address the morning after the killings, Obama said, "No acts of terror will ever shake the resolve of this great nation, alter that character or eclipse the light of the values that we stand for."

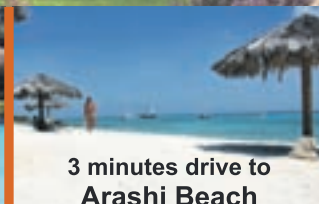
But Republicans said he was speaking generally and didn't specifically call the Benghazi event a terror attack until weeks later. □

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made video ridiculing Islam's Prophet Muhammad. Paul Ryan, the Republican vice presidential nominee, led Friday's charge.

"Look around the world, turn on your TV," Ryan said in an interview with WTAQ radio in the election battleground state of Wisconsin. "And what we see in front of us is the absolute unraveling of the Obama administration's foreign policy." As a security matter, how the Obama administration immediately described the attack has little effect on broader counterterrorism strategies or on the hunt for those responsible for the incident, in which the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans were killed. And Republicans have offered no explanation for why the president would want to conceal the nature of the attack.

But the issue has given Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney an opportunity to question Obama on foreign policy and national security, two areas that have received little attention in an election dominated by the U.S. economy. Obama's signature national security accomplishment is the military's killing of terrorist leader Osama bin Laden.

Ryan was teeing up the issue for Monday's presidential debate on foreign

Nissan to add shift, 800 jobs at U.S. plant

ERIK SCHELZIG

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

— Japanese automaker Nissan Motor Co. announced Friday it will add a third shift at a vehicle assembly plant in Tennessee, adding more than 800 jobs. Gov. Bill Haslam made the jobs announcement at an economic development conference. Haslam said it's the first time the plant will operate on three shifts. Friday's announcement brings the total new jobs added at the plant to more than 2,000 since the middle of last year. About 5,600 people currently work at the plant that first began production in 1983.



Automobiles are assembled at a Nissan factory in Canton, Mississippi. Japanese automaker Nissan Motor Co. announced Friday it will add a third shift at a vehicle assembly plant in Tennessee, adding more than 800 jobs. (Handout Photo)

"Our investment in creating hundreds of new jobs demonstrates Nissan's long-time commitment to our employees, Smyrna, and the state of Tennessee," said Nissan Americas Vice Chairman Bill Krueger. The Smyrna plant makes Nissan's most popular car, the midsize Altima sedan, among other models. Production of the all-electric Leaf is set to begin at the plant in December, while assembly of the Rogue is set to come to Smyrna next year. That will mark the first time the small SUV is made in the United States. Nissan's American headquarters are located in Franklin, just outside Nashville. The company also recently announced an expansion of its engine plant in Decherd, Tennessee, that also makes motors for the Altima. Nissan also has a U.S. plant in Canton, Mississippi. □

Texas A&M evacuated for bomb threat

COLLEGE STATION, Texas

(AP) — Texas A&M University's campus shut down for about five hours Friday after an emailed bomb threat prompted an evacuation and building-by-building search. A&M Police Lt. Allan Baron said officials still were searching some buildings shortly after 4 p.m., but no bombs had been found and people were being allowed to come back on campus to retrieve personal belongings and their cars. Evening activities on campus were set to go on as planned.

Baron said buildings and areas with high student traffic, including the dining facilities and residence halls, had been cleared by police. He said he didn't



Student Amy Hoeks waits for the Texas A&M campus to reopen while authorities investigate a bomb threat Friday, Oct. 19, 2012 in College Station, Texas.

(AP Photo/Jon Eilts)

know how many more buildings still needed to be searched.

Baron said the bomb threat was sent via email at about 11 a.m. to the university's computing information services center. Campus police were notified 15 minutes later and officials made the decision to evacuate by 11:30 a.m.

The threat indicated there was a bomb on campus but did not specify where it was located, he said.

"We are diligently working on this investigation with our local law enforcement agencies as well as with state and federal" agencies, he said.

The campus is located about 100 miles northwest of Houston. □

Sandusky victim says contemplated suicide

MARK SCOLFORO

Associated Press

HARRISBURG,

Pennsylvania (AP) — The young man whose claims of abuse began the criminal investigation that put Jerry Sandusky in prison said he contemplated suicide because authorities took so long to prosecute the former Penn State assistant football coach.

Speaking out publicly by name for the first time, Aaron Fisher said in an interview airing Friday on ABC's "20/20" that the Pennsylvania attorney general's office had told him it needed more victims before Sandusky would be charged.

The scandal tarnished the reputation of one of the country's most revered college sports programs and led to accusations that top university officials concerned about the school's image looked the other way for years while Sandusky abused his victims.

Fisher first reported the abuse in 2008. Sandusky was arrested last November. Fisher said the delay made him increasingly desperate. "I thought maybe it would be easier to take myself out of the equation," he told ABC. "Let somebody else deal with it."

Fisher, now 18, testified as Victim 1 at Sandusky's trial.

He, his mother and his psychologist have co-written a forthcoming book about his ordeal.

Fisher told jurors that Sandusky approached him through a summer camp for youth sponsored by The Second Mile, a charity

and back rubbing during those overnight visits progressed to oral sex. He said he tried to distance himself from Sandusky, to no avail. Fisher was 15 when he and his mother eventually reported the abuse to the school principal, who re-

ABC.

School officials reported Sandusky to Clinton County Children and Youth Services, which began an investigation.

The Associated Press typically does not name sexual abuse victims, unless they identify themselves publicly, as Fisher has done.

Sandusky defense lawyer Joe Amendola, at a legal seminar in Delaware, said Fisher and other victims were motivated by money, a claim he has repeatedly made. "These accusers could have financial motives, and they could have been abused," Amendola said. "They're not mutually exclusive." On Thursday, Amendola filed a 31-page document in the case that is the first step in Sandusky's effort to overturn his conviction, contending there wasn't enough evidence against him and the trial wasn't fair.

The post-sentencing motions attacked rulings by the judge, the closing argument by the prosecution and the speed by which he went from arrest to trial. Sandusky, 68, wants the charges tossed out "and/or" a new trial, saying the statute of limitations had run out for many of the 45 counts for which he was convicted in June. □



This undated image released by ABC shows ABC News' Chris Cuomo, left, with Aaron Fisher, 18, a victim of former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky during an interview airing Friday, Oct. 19, 2012 on the news magazine show "20/20," at 10 p.m. EST on ABC. Sandusky wants his child sexual abuse charges tossed out "and/or" a new trial, saying the statute of limitations had run out for many of the 45 counts for which he was convicted in June. Currently in a county jail near State College, he is awaiting transfer to the state prison system to begin serving a 30- to 60-year sentence. Fisher said he was 11 when he met Sandusky and was abused during weekend visits at the Sandusky home.

(AP Photo/ABC News)

for at-risk youth the former coach had founded.

Physical contact began with a hand on his leg in the car, Fisher said, and he began spending nights at the Sandusky home when he was 11 years old. Kissing

sponded that "Jerry has a heart of gold and that he wouldn't do those type of things," Fisher told ABC, repeating his trial testimony. "They tell me to go home and think about it," his mother, Dawn Daniels, told



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Fatal air crash decline presents safety challenge

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's been 43 months since the last deadly airline crash in the United States, the longest period without a fatal domestic accident since commercial aviation expanded after World War II. That sounds like unvarnished good news, but one consequence of having such a remarkable record is that it's difficult to justify imposing costly new safety rules on the economically fragile industry. In analyzing costs and benefits, federal rules assign a value of \$6.2 million to each life saved. Even modest changes in regulations can cost the industry hundreds of millions of dol-

lars when spread across a number of years. "The extraordinary safety record that has been achieved in the United States ironically could be the single biggest reason the (Federal Aviation Administration) isn't able to act proactively and ensure safety into the future," said Bill Voss, president of the industry-funded Flight Safety Foundation in Alexandria, Virginia, which promotes global airline safety. The past decade has been the airline industry's safest ever. Last year, the FAA revised rules on pilot work schedules and rest periods to address concerns that tired pilots were making mistakes, sometimes with fatal results. But the agency

dropped requirements that would have extended the new rules to cargo carriers. FAA officials said the rule changes would have cost the cargo industry as much as \$300 million over

10 years.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has urged cargo executives to voluntarily comply with the new rules, but so far he's had no takers "We're do-

ing rulemaking in a system that is very, very safe," LaHood said in an interview. "Sometimes it does get to be difficult to produce the cost justification for the kinds of rules that we're promoting." Last year, the FAA missed a congressionally mandated deadline for issuing new regulations on pilot training. Congress ordered the new rules after the last fatal airline crash in the U.S., on Feb. 12, 2009, when a startled captain overrode a key safety system as his airliner lost lift and began to stall. An investigation showed the plane would have been able to fly had the captain responded correctly. Instead, it plummeted into a house near Buffalo, New York, killing all 49 people aboard and a man in the home. Investigators cited pilot training lapses by the regional airline, Colgan Air, as a factor. The FAA began work on revamping training rules in 1999. □



In this Feb. 12, 2009, Continental Airlines Flight 3407 operated by Manassas, Va.-based Colgan Air, plane burns after it crashed into a house in Clarence Center, N.Y. Safety experts say airline travel has become so safe in the United States it's hard to justify imposing costly new safety rules on the economically fragile industry. It's been 43 months since the last deadly domestic airline crash, on Feb. 12, 2009. That's the longest period without a fatal accident since commercial aviation expanded after World War II. Government cost-benefit analyses value each life saved at \$6.2 million. But modest changes in regulations can cost the industry hundreds of millions of dollars.

(AP Photo/David Duprey)



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Amid brutal campaign, a respite with jokes

RICHARD A. OPPEL JR.

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NEW YORK — President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney finally found something they could agree on during Thursday night's 67th annual Al Smith white-tie charity dinner: Jokes about Vice President Joe Biden get big laughs.

"I've heard some people say, 'Barack, you're not as young as you used to be. Where's that golden smile? Where's that pep in your step?'" Obama said. "And I say, 'Settle down, Joe. I'm trying to run a Cabinet meeting here.'"

Speaking of Biden's animated debate performance, Romney said: "I heard from the Federal Election Commission: From now on, whenever he appears on TV, there's a recording of me afterward that says, 'I'm Mitt Romney and I approve this message.'" He added, "I was actually hoping the president would bring Joe Biden along this evening because he will laugh at anything."

In a campaign notable for the contempt in which Romney and Obama at times seem to hold each other, the dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria to benefit Catholic charities — one of the quadrennial proving grounds on the road to the White House — also lived up to its other billing: a respite, however brief, from a campaign that has grown nastier as it has grown closer, illustrated just a few nights ago during a heated, in-your-face debate at Hofstra University.

The equally skillful performances Thursday night of Obama and Romney al-

most seemed jarring for how civil and self-deprecating each could be in the other's presence — even as they lacerated their rivals' campaign missteps. "We were chatting pleasantly this evening as if Tuesday night never happened," Romney said.

Romney, the Republican presidential nominee, who like Obama wore a black

And he took a poke at Obama's "you didn't build that" statement, saying the apostle St. Peter had "so many skeptics and scoffers at the time who were heard to say, 'If you got a church, you didn't build that.'"

Romney also shared his secrets for debate preparation: "First, refrain from alcohol for 65 years before the debate. Second, find

try, and their job is to make sure no one else finds out about it," he said. And anticipating the coverage of the dinner, he joked that tomorrow's headlines would read, "Obama Embraced by Catholics; Romney Dines With Rich People."

Both men got a lot of laughs. Obama got his first while the audience was still giving him a standing ova-

"I learned that there are worse things that can happen to you on your anniversary than forgetting to buy a gift."

Obama noted that he and Romney spent their free time before the dinner in somewhat different pursuits. "Earlier today, I went shopping at some stores in Midtown. I understand Gov. Romney went shopping for some stores in Midtown."

And he came prepared with his own retort to Romney's "build that" joke, reminiscing about how he used to "love to go to old Yankee Stadium, the house that Ruth built — although he really did not build that." The president took a swipe at Romney's running mate, whose claim to have run a sub-three-hour marathon was later proven to be more than an hour too generous. "Sometimes it feels like this race has dragged on forever," Obama said, "but Paul Ryan assured me that we've only been running for 2 hours and 50-something minutes."

Obama said that while he and Romney both have unusual names, Romney, whose full name is Willard Mitt Romney, goes by his middle name. The president — whose full name is Barack Hussein Obama — joked, "I wish I could use my middle name." He also mocked Romney's turbulent foreign trip, contrasting it with his own overseas trip in 2008, after which he said he was "attacked as a celebrity because I was so popular with our allies overseas."

"I have to say I am impressed with how well Gov. Romney has avoided that problem," he said. □



President Barack Obama, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, center, and Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney during the 67th Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation Dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Towers in New York, Oct. 18, 2012. A gathering of elites to benefit charity, the dinner has become the one light moment between presidential candidates every four years as the men seeking the White House deliver comedic roasts designed to make fun of their rival — and of themselves.

(Damon Winter/The New York Times)

tuxedo and a white bow tie, began his speech by saying that, "It's nice to finally relax and wear what Ann and I wear around the house."

Noting the large and wealthy audience before them, he said of Obama: "You have to wonder what he is thinking — so little time, so much to redistribute."

the biggest available straw man, and then just mercilessly attack him. Big Bird didn't even see it coming." And he joked that while he leans on his wife for comfort and support, he said Obama "has Bill Clinton." Romney also took his swipes at the news media. "My job is to lay out a positive vision for the future of the coun-

tion: "Everyone please take your seats, otherwise Clint Eastwood will yell at them." He was quick to make light of his poor performance in the first debate. "As some of you may have noticed, I had a lot more energy in our second debate. I felt really well-rested after the nice long nap I had in the first debate." He added,



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Top security official among victims in Lebanon attack

ANNE BARNARD

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BEIRUT – A large bomb exploded in the heart of Beirut's Christian section Friday, killing a top Lebanese security official and at least seven others, wounding dozens and spreading anxiety and dread in a city where memories of sectarian violence from Lebanon's long civil war have been resurrected by the conflict in neighboring Syria.

The security official, Brig. Gen. Wissam al-Hassan, was apparently the intended target of the explosion, which ripped into buildings, upended cars and shattered windows for blocks in the most serious bombing to hit Beirut in at least four years. He was declared dead a few hours after the blast in an announcement on Lebanese television.

As the intelligence chief of Lebanon's Internal Security Forces, Hassan played a leading role a few months ago in the arrest of a former information minister, Michel Samaha, who had close ties

with the Syrian leadership and was accused of plotting a campaign of bombings and assassinations in Lebanon. Samaha's arrest was widely

seen as part of Lebanese government efforts to prevent the spread of sectarian mayhem in the country. Hassan, a Sunni Muslim, also was close to the fam-

ily of Rafik Hariri, the Sunni former prime minister who was assassinated in a 2005 car bombing in Beirut that Hariri's supporters have blamed on Syria and its Lebanese allies.

The bombing Friday came a day after Hassan returned from a trip to Germany and France. He had moved his family to Paris in the aftermath of Samaha's arrest because he had received numerous threats.

The identities of the other victims in the bombing were not immediately clear, and there was no word on who was behind the blast, which the authorities said had been caused either by a car bomb or a bomb hidden in the street or under a vehicle parked in the affluent Sassine area, about two blocks from a gleaming shopping center. It exploded midafternoon just as the school day was ending.

Suspicion quickly fell on groups aligned with Syria's president, Bashar Assad,

the embattled leader who has long been an influential political force in Lebanon and is close with Hezbollah, the militant Shiite Lebanese organization that is a powerful faction in Lebanon's own complex web of politics. The offices of two Lebanese political groups that oppose Assad, the Christian Phalange Party and the March 14 alliance, are in the same area as the blast site.

"It is clear that the Syrian regime is responsible for such an explosion," said Nadim Gemayel, a member of Parliament and senior member of the Phalange Party, whose father, Bashir Gemayel, was assassinated in an explosion at party headquarters in 1982 just a few weeks after he was elected president. "It is such a big explosion that only the Syrian regime could have planned it."

Hariri's son, Saad, who also is a former prime minister, and Walid Jumblatt, the longtime leader of Lebanon's Druze community, also accused the Syrian government of responsibility for the bombing. □



Lebanese soldiers inspect damage at the scene of an explosion in the mostly Christian neighborhood of Achrafieh, Beirut, Lebanon, Friday Oct. 19, 2012. Lebanese Red Cross and security officials say a car bomb in east Beirut has killed at least eight people and wounded dozens in the worst blast the city has seen in years, coming at a time when Lebanon has seen a rise in tension and eruptions of clashes stemming from the civil war in neighboring Syria.

(AP Photo/Bilal Hussein)

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US chief in Japan sorry over rape

ELAINE KURTENBACH
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The commander of U.S. forces in Japan apologized Friday for a case in which two American sailors allegedly raped a woman in Okinawa and said all U.S. military personnel in the country will now be subject to a curfew and other restrictions.

A statement released by U.S. Forces Japan says the 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew will apply to U.S. military personnel whether they are stationed in Japan or just visiting. It requires them to be in their homes, on base or wherever they are lodging. Lt. Gen. Salvatore Angelella said U.S. military members in Japan also will have to take "core values training." The military's liberty policy is also under review.

Japan's defense minister, Satoshi Morimoto, told reporters earlier Friday that he was instructed by Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, "to fully discuss the matter with the U.S. side and come up with measures to eradicate the problem so that crimes like this are never repeated again."

The two sailors were in Okinawa on a brief stopover and are now in Japanese custody. According to Japanese media, they had been drinking before they attacked the woman, in her 20s, who was on her way home before dawn Tuesday.

The case has drawn protests from the Japanese government and an outcry on Okinawa, where the presence of U.S. military has long been a sore point. The island hosts more than half the 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan. □

Turkey backs call for cease-fire in Syria

HWAIDA SAAD
ALAN COWELL

© 2012 New York Times

BEIRUT — Turkey, a major regional player in the Syrian crisis, threw its diplomatic weight Friday behind a call for a cease-fire "at least" through a three-day Islamic holiday beginning next week.

The appeal by Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu of Turkey came as the international envoy to Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, prepared to visit Damascus, the Syrian capital, news reports said, to press his earlier entreaties for the guns to fall silent on both sides during the Id al-Adha holiday starting Thursday. Id al-Adha, the Islamic Feast of Sacrifice, is celebrated by Shiite and Sunni Muslims to commemorate the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son Ishmael as proof of obedience to God.

Brahimi's planned visit coincided with new reports by Syrian rebels of government airstrikes against

insurgents seeking to encircle a major military base at Wadi Deif in northwestern Idlib province that has

President Bashar Assad's air force Thursday in attacks that claimed scores of lives, according to reports from



Turkey threw its diplomatic weight Friday behind a call for a cease-fire in Syria "at least" through a three-day Islamic holiday beginning next week. The appeal by Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu of Turkey came as the international envoy to Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi (above), prepared to visit Damascus to press his earlier entreaties for the guns to fall silent on both sides during the Id al-Adha holiday.

(AP Photo/Bilal Hussein)

been unfolding for days. Fresh airstrikes were also reported from the rebel-held town of Maarat al-Noaman in northern Syria pounded a day earlier by

activists. In the southern town of Dara'a, where the uprising began in March, 2011, as a

series of peaceful protests, activists said the authorities had imposed a curfew to prevent worshipers from attending mosques for Friday Prayer, frequently used as time to protest.

The fighting offered a grim and bloody backdrop to Brahimi's mission, which has already won some support from Iran and neighboring Iraq.

Reinforcing the cease-fire call, Davutoglu said Friday: "It is especially important for the Syrian regime, which has launched bombs on its people with planes and helicopters,

to halt these attacks immediately and without preconditions."

"Let's hope that the Syrian regime listens to this call by the international community and stops these attacks during Id al-Adha," he said, according to The Associated Press. "In response, we expect the opposition to abide by the cease-fire in the same way." □

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Spain considers police photo ban

**HAROLD HECKLE
Associated Press**

MADRID (AP) — Spain is considering a ban on photographing, filming or reproducing images of police and state security forces who are on duty, officials said Friday.

Interior Minister Jorge Fernandez Diaz said the government is considering prohibiting the capture, playback and processing of images, sounds or data of security forces while "in the exercise of their functions." Deputy Prime Minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaria said after months of television and Internet scenes of sometimes violent clashes between police and demonstrators, a balance had to be struck "between citizens' right to protest" and the need "to uphold the integrity of state security forces." The government's plans were unveiled a day after Spain's director general of police, Cosido Ignacio, said efforts are under way to secure such a ban. At the government's weekly Cabinet news conference, Saenz de Santamaria was repeatedly asked by journalists from several media organizations how the measure would affect press freedom. "This is a complex issue, but we will try to find a balance," she said, adding that the task of government was to protect all its citizens.

Fernandez Diaz said, "We do not intend to stop the press from doing its job of taking pictures of police charges and other proceedings. But we understand that in anti-terrorist

operations or against mafias you have to have a more careful approach when it comes to disseminating images."

Fernandez Diaz echoed Ignacio's words by saying the "dignity of police and security forces has to be upheld."

Many Spaniards have been shocked by images of violence between police and

north.

On one day in March, authorities arrested 176 protesters across Spain and said 104 people were injured in clashes, including 58 police officers.

Angel Casana, a lead writer for the national newspaper El Mundo, said in an online editorial that photography had changed the course of history and that the govern-



Police clash with protestors during a demonstration at the parliament against austerity measures announced by the Spanish government in Madrid. Spain's government said Friday Oct. 19, 2012 it is considering a ban on photographing, filming and reproducing images of police and state security forces while "in the exercise of their functions." Deputy Prime Minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaria said that after months of television and internet viewing of sometimes violent clashes between police and demonstrators a balance had to be struck "between citizens' right to protest" and a need "to uphold the integrity of state security forces."

(AP Photo/Andres Kudacki)

protesters, especially after television images of clashes near Parliament on Sept. 25 showed several protesters bloodied and in need of medical attention.

Anti-austerity demonstrations have turned violent this year in cities such as Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia, as well as in rural mining locations in the

ment's proposed measure could have a negative impact on news gathering.

"If this proposal goes ahead, it is going to be impossible to know about events as they occur on the streets just at a time when streets are at boiling point due to the dire economic situation of many families," said Casana. □

1 dead, 11 injured in series of UK hit and run incidents

LONDON (AP) — A series of hit-and-run incidents in the Welsh city of Cardiff killed a woman Friday and injured 11 other pedestrians, including seven children. Witnesses described a motorist deliberately driving into families walking home from school.

South Wales Police said a 32-year-old woman had been killed, and other victims were taken to hospital for treatment. An unidentified 31-year-old man has been arrested and a van has been seized.

Authorities said that there had been at least five separate hit-and-run collisions across the city.

Ramesh Patel, who runs a store close to the site where the woman was killed, said customers had described how the van driver appeared to target pedestrians. "Customers have said a white van purposely drove at people," Patel said.

The incidents took place as parents were collecting children from nearby schools and walking home. □

Court: Berlusconi denies sex with Moroccan teen

**COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press**

MILAN (AP) — Silvio Berlusconi made a rare court appearance Friday to deny some of the more salacious accusations at the center of a sex scandal in Italy that has muddied his reputation.

The former premier said he never had sex with an underage Moroccan teen, never paid for sex with any guest at his villa near Milan and denied that "bunga-bunga" parties that he held were in any way sexual.

"The expression 'bunga-bunga' comes from a joke that I have repeated many times, and that has been picked up viciously by the media," Berlusconi said during an appearance at his trial on charges of having paid for sex with Moroccan teen Karima el-Mahroug and trying to cover it up. Berlusconi's declaration was spontaneous, a practice that Italy allows defendants and which does not have the weight of testimony. His lawyers have indicated that Berlusconi does not intend to testify.

Berlusconi said Friday that his long history of legal battles, mostly for his business dealings, also discouraged him from taking the stand.

The case is the first involving the three-time former premier's personal behavior. Berlusconi stepped down as premier last November after failing to persuade financial markets he could come up with convincing reforms to protect debt-laden Italy from the sovereign debt crisis. □

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Allegations of abuse by BBC host 'unprecedented'

ALAN COWELL

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The British police said Friday that the allegations of sexual abuse leveled against one of Britain's best-known television personalities were "unprecedented," with more than 400 leads and at least 200 potential victims, more than three times the tally only days ago. The disclosure represents a significant widening of the scandal, as victims and accusers overcome decades of reticence to step forward and denounce the former BBC host, Jimmy Savile, who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II and had often been depicted as a national treasure.

"The public's response to this issue has been astounding," Peter Spindler, a commander with Scotland Yard, said in a statement. "We are dealing with alleged abuse on an unprecedented scale. The profile of this operation has empowered a staggering number of victims to come forward to report the sexual exploitation which occurred during their childhood." The accusations against Savile, who died last year at the age of 84, have stunned many Britons, shattering the public image of a television personality who for decades attracted a young audience through his role as host of two popu-



A general view showing flowers left on the grave of British TV host and Disc Jockey Jimmy Savile in Woodlands Cemetery, Scarborough, England, after the headstone was removed at the request of Savile's family. The family of Jimmy Savile have had the headstone of from his grave removed out of "respect to public opinion" after police said the former presenter could have abused up to 200 victims over 40 years. (AP Photo/Anna Gowthorpe/PA)

lar BBC programs, "Top of the Pops," a chart-count-down show, and "Jim'll Fix It," in which Savile promised to grant viewers' wishes. The accusations first came to light in a documentary broadcast earlier this month on the rival ITV commercial channel. The complaints of abuse of underage girls in hospitals that Savile visited as a volunteer, in children's homes and on the premises of the British Broadcasting Corp., Britain's public broadcaster, have also raised searing questions about why the station did not move earlier against Savile, whose behavior was the topic of much-discussed rumors among BBC employees. □

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Fidel Castro rumor mill continues to churn

PAUL HAVEN

The Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The rumor mill surrounding the health of Fidel Castro churned anew on Friday, despite a letter from the aging Cuban revolutionary published by state media and denials by relatives at home and in the United States that he is on death's door.

Social media sites and some news organizations have reported allegations by a Venezuelan doctor that Castro, 86, had suffered a massive stroke, was in a vegetative state, and had only weeks to live, though the same doctor, Jose Rafael Marquina, has made some claims before that have not panned out. Marquina told Spain's ABC newspaper that Castro had suffered a "massive embolism of the right cerebral artery" and while not on life support or breathing artificially, was "moribund" at a house in a gated former country club in western Havana.

Marquina also said that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez had traveled suddenly to Havana to be with

his friend and ally, an account that could not be immediately verified.

Reached by The Associated Press, Marquina said his sources were in Venezuela, but he would not iden-

he had received corroborating evidence from sources on Twitter, but would not say who.

In April, Marquina said that Chavez, who has been battling an undisclosed kind

ezuelan leader says he's beaten the illness and appears stronger in public.

Castro's health is considered a matter of national security in Cuba and few details are released.

Rumors that the former Cuban leader has died or is near death have circulated repeatedly for years, but they gained force after he failed to issue a public statement congratulating Chavez on his Oct. 7 election victory.

Castro has not been seen in public since March, when he received visiting Pope Benedict XVI. He has also stopped writing his once-constant opinion pieces, the last of which appeared in June.

There was no immediate comment from the Cuban government on the latest claims, but a letter attributed to Castro was published Thursday by Cuban state media. In it, he congratulated graduates of a medical school on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Two close family members of Castro have also recently denied he is in grave condition. □



In this Feb. 10, 2012 file photo released by the state media website Cubadebate, Cuba's leader Fidel Castro speaks during a meeting with intellectuals and writers at the International Book Fair in Havana, Cuba. The rumor mill surrounding Castro's health continued to churn Friday, Oct. 19, 2012, despite a letter from the aging Cuban revolutionary published by state-media and denials by relatives that he is on death's door. The latest spark to set the Internet aflame are claims by a Venezuelan doctor that Castro, 86, had suffered a massive stroke, was in a vegetative state, and had only weeks to live.

tify them or say how they were in a position to have information about Castro's health. He also indicated

of cancer, was in his "last days" and would not last to November. With less than two weeks to go, the Ven-

Brazil Forest Code vetoed

JULIANA BARBASSA

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil's president used her veto power to slash through the new Forest Code, making the environmental law a little tougher on large agricultural interests by strengthening reforestation requirements along river banks, a decree published by the government said Thursday.

President Dilma Rousseff's goal was to recover some of the elements that were in the original legislation but were lost as it made its way through the House and Senate, and thus "maintain the balance between social and environmental" needs in the countryside, Environmental Minister Izaabella Teixeira said.

One of the most debated items altered by the president restored different rules for reforestation along river banks according to farm size.

With Rousseff's veto, medium-size properties will have to keep wooded areas 20 meters (yards) deep along rivers, and the owners of the largest properties will have to preserve a 30-meter buffer of trees. The congressional text had required medium property owners to maintain 15 meters of vegetation next to bodies of water and larger properties 20 meters. The smallest properties have to maintain at least five meters of protected area around rivers.

The size category of each property is determined both by its dimensions and by a complex calculation that includes local conditions and the type of commercial activity pursued there.

Teixeira said this scaled solution is fair because it takes into consideration the size of a property as well as the ability of an owner to maintain or restore vegetation. "We do not believe the government should cut back environmental protection requirements for large and medium landowners," she told reporters Wednesday. □

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Aruban Hotelier Jeff Lesker Revitalizes the Wyndham, Kingston, Jamaica



Located in the new town, the Wyndham Hotel enjoys a steady flow of clients mixing business with pleasure at the 315 room property, the only branded hotel in this hopping shopping, commerce and government center.

When hotelier Jeff Lesker arrived there, from the Radisson Marina & Spa St Martin, more than 6 months ago he repositioned the hotel under the Resort to Business slogan, providing guests with a genuine resort experience in the heart of town. He recently shared with us, his ten commandments, ten useful moves he undertook to revitalize and upgrade guest and employee experience at the hotel. "I started with the obvious," he says, "the front desk and lobby, decorating the friendly, high-traffic public space to reflect Jamaica's 50th anniversary as a state, lining the walls with historical images and text, origi-

nal artwork, and a mega collage of Jamaica's cultural icon, Bob Marley."

"We're proud and passionate about serving our guests," Lesker adds, "and wanted to share some of Jamaica's great heritage with visitors."

As part of this philosophy, employees are encouraged to interact with hotel guests, and a special Lobby Ambassador is on hand every morning to catch them as they scurry out on business or excursions, ready to receive feedback and special requests from those who need to communicate their needs. By the time they return in the evening, things have been taken care of, Lesker explains. Chatty and friendly housekeepers encourage guests to share their needs, visiting twice daily, to make up the room in the morning hours and for turn-down service at night, leaving Jamaican chocolate bonbons be-

hind.

The hotel's Cafecino Coffee Bar, a popular lobby spot, serves genuine Jamaican Blue Mountain Coffee, delicious pastries and fresh sandwiches, 24 hours a day. The coffee bar enjoys popularity among guests and hotel

assigned duties. While assigned to Cafecino coffee-bar, members of management interact freely with their guests, which serves the customer-focus group, and provides helpful immediate feedback. Happy hour unfolds in the lobby at the Wyndham Kingston every day during check-in hours serving free sampling of the restaurant offerings and a mini beverage to promote in-house dining at the resident Italian restaurant.

Baci Café on the mezzanine floor is home to a talented Jamaican chef Courtney Virgo, who true to his zodiac sign is a perfectionist and just recently exchanged some signature menu recipes with French culinary legend Chef Bruno Brazier of St. Martin. The restaurant is advertised as Fun, Fresh & Fabulous with nothing over \$20 on the menu, which immediately increased the number of covers it served. The hotel's blooming gardens also grow organic herbs which are abundantly used in

For the Green Market Café, Lesker picked a successful Business Buffet Lunch formula with two options, a rushed and a leisurely one, which immediately captured all the businessmen traffic in the area. The restaurant's designer soup, salad, and sandwich bar complemented by a hot gourmet buffet drives the daily numbers of covers up and spills over to the coffee bar in the lobby.

Two specialty nights feature Grilled Lobster and Fresh Seafood around the tropical pool deck, with fantastic Jamaican Rastafarian Reggae singer Clency Eccles and his combo. The band nicely entertains guests as their business day winds down, over gourmet cuisine and award-winning rum drinks, served from the busy pool bar.

To help Lesker run a tight ship a number of members within the organization were promoted, which helped boost morale among staffers, hoping to develop their careers, not just hold on to their jobs. "We have very capable, well educated people," Lesker informs, "and I am planning to continue promotions from within, as much as possible."

Within that line of thought, the property has made an effort to affiliate with high profile, local community and social events, such as Fashion Week, and the annual Bridal Expo Wyndham Wedding Spectacular, courting additional local business and patronage. "We benefit from close ties to the community, and participate as much as we can, celebrating Restaurant Week, and hosting government functions." □



members of management whose presence at regular intervals is part of their

both hotel restaurants Baci Café and the Green Market Café.

The First Donkey Calendars for 2013 are now available!



The first copy of the 2013 Donkey Calendar was presented under the watchful eye of photographers and various camera crews, at

Fusion, the new Piano & Wine Bar in the brand new renovated Alhambra Casino & Shops. The first calendar was handed out by

Desiree Eldering on behalf of the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary, to Alex Nieuwmeyer, the Managing Director of the Divi Resorts in Aruba

and Bonaire. Nieuwmeyer is also a board member of AHATA, the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association. The presentation was attended by donkey sanctuary residents Ban Ban and the four month old Well Done.

Alex Nieuwmeyer was thrilled to be the first person to receive a copy of the calendar. According to Nieuwmeyer, the work done at the Donkey Sanctuary by its volunteers is invaluable, and deserving much praise. The foundation helps keep part of the Aruban culture and the donkeys' habitat in check, which is extremely important as part of an environmentally responsible mindset. The associates of the Divi manage a special charity foundation and they regularly support social causes on the island, including the Donkey Sanctuary.

The donkeys' calendar, in its fourth edition this year and has become quite famous for its pictures and design. The pictures are taken by photographer Luc Peek, while Saskia Aanhande Direct Result advertising agency, is responsible for

the design. This cooperation led to a beautiful calendar in A3 format, printed in full, brilliant colors. This year, 12 volunteers of the Donkey Sanctuary were also recognized for their contributions. On each month's page, you may see a pretty image of a donkey, as well as a picture and a short story about a local volunteer. The board of the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary wanted to demonstrate its appreciation for the hardworking volunteers.

You may pick up your own copy of the calendar at Awg. 25,- at the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary, but it will also be available for sale via the foundation's volunteers and at Veterinary Contreras Clinic, the Bestial shop, En Vogue Coiffures and the local Pia di Oro. Aside from these locations, the calendar will also become available at various stands during the weekend in the upcoming months at larger supermarkets, such as Ling & Sons Supercenter and Super Food. Finally, you may purchase your copy of the calendar via the sanctuary's website: www.arubandonkey.org.

Beauty On The Beach

Laura Viscomi

She is from New Jersey, USA. It is her first time in Aruba. She is staying at the Radisson Beach Resort. What she loves most of Aruba is the weather and the beach.

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The Movado BOLD Breast

Cancer Awareness Watch features a black TR90 composite material/stainless steel case and scratch-resistant K1 crystal. Its dial is detailed by a signature dot sparkling with pink crystals, and outlined in berry with matching berry hands. The black leather strap is lined in a matching berry hue! The case-back is etched with the Breast Cancer ribbon motif.

The watch retails for \$350.00 and is available for purchase at Diamonds International's main store located



at the Forum Shops of Aruba in downtown. Movado is donating \$50 from

each purchase to BCRF, up to a maximum donation of \$15,000. To learn more

about the BCRF, please visit their website at www.bcrf-cure.org.

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort



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Curacao ex-PM seeks to lead new coalition gov't

KAREN ATTIAH

Associated Press

WILLEMSTAD, Curacao (AP)

— Gerrit Schotte, who was ousted as Curacao's first prime minister after his governing coalition fell apart in August, is hoping Friday's parliamentary elections will usher in a new governing coalition that will return him to power in this Dutch Caribbean island off Venezuela. Schotte, who made international headlines in late September for locking himself inside his former government office over a weekend to protest the appointment of an interim administration, energetically touted his role as the first prime minister of Curacao even if public deficits widened under his leadership. The southern Caribbean island was part of the Netherlands Antilles until October 2010, when it became a more autonomous "constituent country" of the Netherlands. The island's

governor is the representative of the Dutch monarch, and the Netherlands government oversees defense and foreign affairs.

Schotte's rivals included former Netherlands Antilles Prime Minister Emily de Jonghe-Elhage, whose Party of the Real Alternative held eight seats in the last parliament, the largest bloc of any opposition faction. On Friday afternoon, hundreds of people visited polling stations under the rain as they cast handwritten ballots into cardboard boxes. Among them was 45-year-old Willy Barreto, an immigrant from Colombia who has lived in Curacao for 12 years.

"The elections are very important," he said. "People are fighting unnecessarily. Black, white, yellow, any social standing, economic standing, it doesn't matter. For me as an immigrant, everyone has to build this country together."

Eight political parties put up candidates for Curacao's 21-member Parliament. Few people expected any party to win a majority of seats, meaning par-

ties would have to bargain

next four years. The coalition led by Schotte had 11 seats in Parliament before partners withdrew Aug. 3, ending the coalition's majority. Schotte



Gerrit Schotte, who was ousted as Curacao's first prime minister after his governing coalition fell apart in August, is hoping that yesterday's parliamentary elections will usher in a new governing coalition that will return him to power in this Dutch Caribbean island off Venezuela.

over forming a coalition to run the government for the

dissolved Parliament and scheduled the elections. The messy political scene

was discouraging to some voters, including 34-year-old Paul Hesseling, a Dutch civil servant.

"I voted for no one. I voted 'blanco'," he said. "If I look at the political parties before, they were very corrupt. I've seen what the parties have done and I don't trust them enough. I haven't seen enough of the new parties on their platform." One of the former coalition parties is led by Helman Wiels, a social worker who is the fiery leader of the Pueblo Soberano faction, which held four seats. He called for Curacao to be completely independent of any foreign influence, drawing criticism from some business leaders. But his stand struck a chord with some islanders, who feel Curacao could go it alone with its economy largely dependent on offshore finance and tourism, much of it from nearby Venezuela. □

American Style Burgers Rule!!

The inspiration for a good American style hamburger comes right from the owners backyard grill. Aaron Walisever – before his 'retirement' – was known as "The King of Fireplaces & Grills" in New England. Moving to Aruba from Sharon, Massachusetts with his wife Rosie was a positive move all around – but their search for a good burger and fries didn't stretch far from home. It was this reason that Rosie & Aaron opened 5 Burgers Aruba! As the name implies, there are 5 specialty burgers offered including a mammoth Western Burger, a tasty melted Gouda Burger, a Farmers Burger complete with a fried egg. For the very hungry, a 3 patty Man Burger and to round out the specials – a zesty chicken breast with special sauce is also available.

Of course, hamburgers and cheeseburgers – small and regular sized are also on the menu. But the big surprise is the hand-cut daily – french fries – from select Idaho potatoes and hand-made onion rings! Cooking these in peanut oil leaves the pure potato flavor in the fry. A favorite way to enjoy fries is with vinegar! These complement any meal ordered at 5 Burgers! Burgers are pressed daily and are U.S.D.A.

choice beef only and lightly seasoned with a special spice blend. They can even satisfy you if you desire a veggie burger. Toppings are encouraged and available at no additional charge – raw or grilled onions & mushrooms, lettuce, tomato, BBQ sauce and many more tasty items. Brand new items to the menu include a hand-made beef empanada and chicken bites. 5 Burgers Aruba is open from Noon to 10-ish daily. Delivery is available to your pool or hotel room! They are located behind Senor Frogs and across from the Radisson Hotel. Come by and enjoy a great burger experience. Rosie & Aaron are often on site – making sure that you are happy with your burger experience! Call 5 BURGERS ARUBA at 586-3904. □





NHL commissioner Gary Bettman arrives as the NHL and its locked-out player resume negotiations in Toronto on Wednesday Oct. 16, 2012.
Associated Press

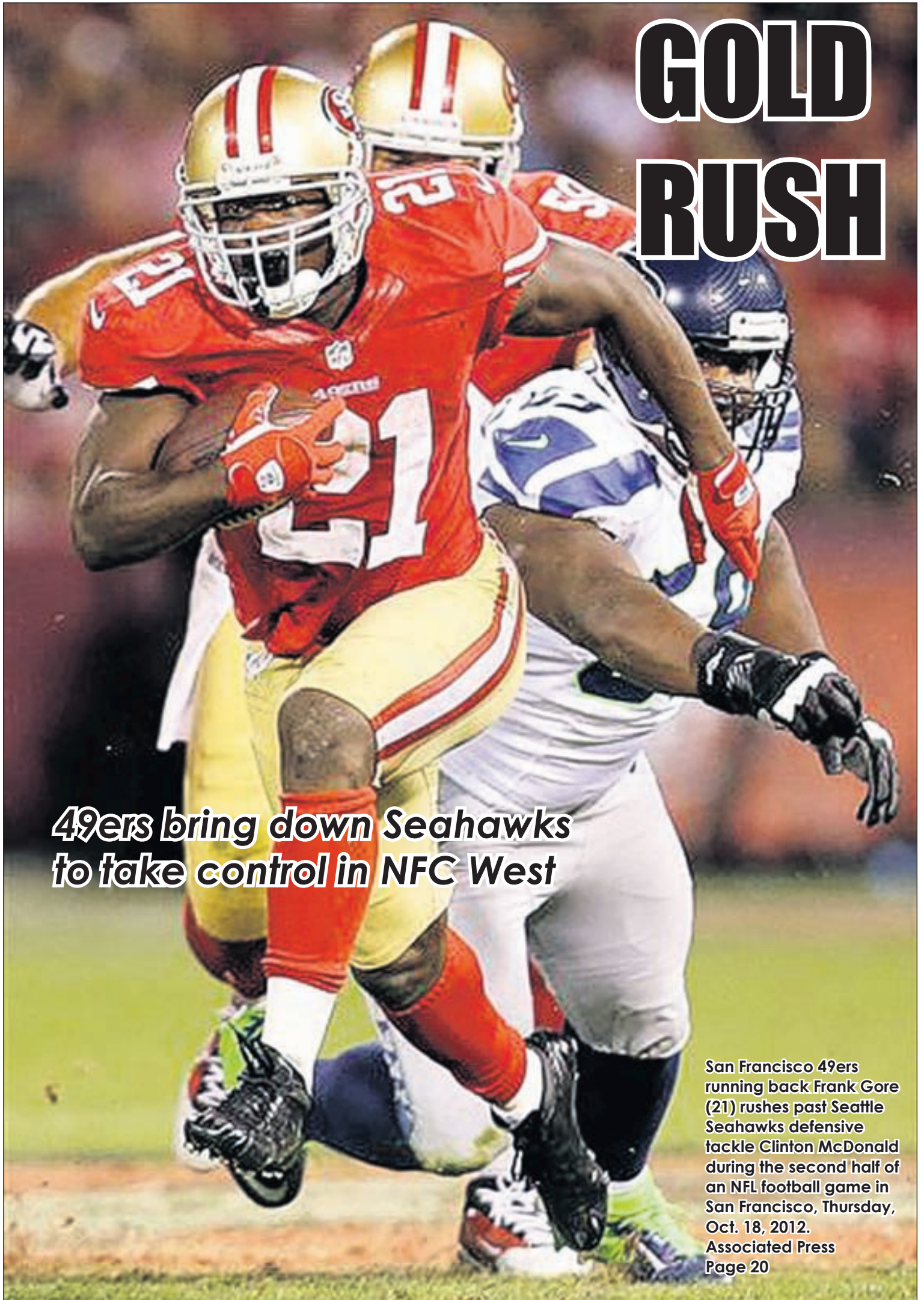
NHL cancels games through November 1

IRA PODELL
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NHL wiped out the third week of the regular season Friday as the lockout dragged on, leaving no more wiggle room if the league hopes to play a full 82-game schedule.

A day after the NHL turned down three counterproposals from players, the league canceled 53 more games. A total of 135 games through Nov. 1 have been scratched, which amounts to 11 percent of the season.

In its third lockout since 1994, the NHL is sticking to its most recent proposal that stated a full 82-game-per-team schedule could be played if the season begins by Nov. 2. Two weeks ago, the league called off 82 games from Oct. 11-24. On Thursday, the union rejected the NHL's proposal made two days earlier that offered a 50-50 split of hockey-related revenues and ensured a full regular-season schedule. □



GOLD RUSH

49ers bring down Seahawks to take control in NFC West

San Francisco 49ers running back Frank Gore (21) rushes past Seattle Seahawks defensive tackle Clinton McDonald during the second half of an NFL football game in San Francisco, Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012.
Associated Press
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Garcia sets to defend belt in rematch vs Morales



Boxer Danny Garcia, right, from Philadelphia, the current Ring Magazine, WBC and WBA Super Lightweight Champion, wears his belts, assisted by trainer Angel Garcia, outside the Barclays Center, in the Brooklyn borough of New York, Monday, Oct. 15, 2012.

DAN GELSTON

AP Photos

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — It's easy to stride past the gritty gym where Danny Garcia trains. It's getting tougher to overlook Garcia. Each day, Garcia grinds out a championship career on the second floor

Associated Press

of a dusty, cramped North Philadelphia gym, with only a sign that says "Swift Boxing Club," and an arrow pointing toward rickety, wooden steps off to the side of the building. The 24-year-old Garcia's rise to stardom peaks — for now — on Saturday when

he headlines the first major championship boxing card in Brooklyn, New York, in 80 years. Garcia (24-0, 15 KOs) is scheduled to defend his WBA super lightweight belt against Erik Morales (52-8, 36 KOs) at the Barclays Center. The bout hit a bit of a snag on Thursday when reports surfaced that Morales failed a random drug test. With Morales' backup B sample yet to be tested, Garcia was still set to headline the card where a win could propel him toward bigger bouts and paydays. He defeated Morales by unanimous decision in March to win the WBC 140-pound (63 1/2-kilogram) world title. In July, Garcia stopped heavy favorite Amir Khan in the fourth round to stay undefeated and add another

super lightweight belt to his collection, defeating the popular fighter in spectacular fashion. Garcia claims he showed Morales too much respect in their first bout, gave the veteran time to think, and didn't finish him off in the early rounds like he believes will happen on Saturday. "Now people know I'm the real deal," Garcia said. His father has known it for years. In a sport where some father-son working relationships often turn sour, the Garcias are trying to buck that trend and prove that championships can be won and defended with blood, sweat and tough love. Garcia's outspoken father, Angel, has been with him every blow of his career and adds an oversized personality in the

corner that can overshadow his son. Angel Garcia's temper was on full display on Thursday when he unleashed a Spanish tirade aimed at Morales and his trainer in the final news conference for the fight. But only a week earlier, Garcia, who served two years in prison when Danny was a boy, sat in that Philadelphia gym and vowed he'd only guide his son, not become a focal point for the fight. "A lot of trainers and fathers, lot of times, they want to be the star," Angel said. "They forget, they're not the stars. The star is the athlete. You're just here to do your job." Billed as "Swift," Danny Garcia said there was no one else he wanted in his corner. □

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Atwal holds lead in a must-win tournament

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Georgia (AP) — Arjun Atwal, who is running out of time to keep his PGA Tour card, used his new putting stroke to set up a 7-under 63 in Friday's second round of the McGladrey Classic, taking a one-shot lead into the weekend.

Atwal, whose two-year exemption from winning in Greensboro, North Carolina, expires this year, is No. 175 on the money list and has only two tournaments left to finish in the top 125. He opened with three straight birdies and took the outright lead with a wedge into 5 feet on the fifth hole, his 14th of the round.

"I'm in a desperate situation," Atwal said. "I got no choice — either win or fin-

ish in the top two. So I've just got to grind it out."

Atwal was at 10-under 130, a stroke ahead of U.S. Ryder Cup captain Davis Love III, who is playing his third straight tournament since his team lost a big final day lead against Europe at Medinah.

Love hit a 6-iron to 3 feet on the 17th hole, putting him into the final group on Saturday. He is tied with Jim Furyk, who is playing his first tournament since his bogey-bogey finish in the Ryder Cup.

Atwal struggled with a bad back early in the year when he opened the season by missing the cut in seven straight tournaments. His chronic left knee is acting up now and he expects to have tests on it at the end of the year.

All he cares about now is getting a card for next year, a position with which he is familiar.

Two years ago, Atwal had to go through Monday qualifying for the Wyndham Championship in Greensboro, and then he shot a 61 on his way to his lone PGA Tour victory. He recalls one year on the Nationwide Tour when he won late in the season to finish in the top 25 and earn back his tour card.

More than injuries, he felt he spent too much time getting technical with his swing after changing coaches, and it took him until June before he stopped thinking and starting playing. He started making cuts, but he didn't make up much ground.

Love moved to Sea Is-



Arjun Atwal, of India, chips onto the ninth green during the second round of the McGladrey Classic PGA Tour golf tournament on Friday, Oct. 19, 2012, in St. Simons Island, Ga.

Associated Press

land when he was 14. What helped more than his course knowledge was switching to a belly putter. "I've been messing around with this putter for well over a year, I just haven't had the nerve to put it in play," Love said. "But I had two pro-ams this week so I said, 'This is the best time — my home greens, two pro-ams

on my home course.' So I tried it out and the first day I used it, I made eight birdies. So it worked."

Furyk rolled in an 18-foot birdie putt on the 14th, converted a two-putt birdie from 100 feet away just off the green, and made a third straight birdie on the 16th from about 12 feet. He wound up with a 65. □

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Disappointing teams face off in NFL Week 7

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Two of the NFL's most disappointing teams meet in Charlotte on Sunday.

And two more of them meet in Cincinnati.

The Dallas Cowboys head to the Carolina Panthers having lost three of their last four after an uplifting opening victory over the New York Giants. Dallas had designs on taking charge of the NFC East, especially following the victory in the Meadowlands, but finds itself in last place in the division thanks to bad time management, critical dropped passes and a conference-high nine interceptions off Tony Romo.

"We need a victory, bad," fullback Lawrence Vickers said. "This is very critical to get this win."

Carolina didn't have such high expectations, but the Panthers expected to build off Cam Newton's offensive rookie of the year campaign and at least contend in the NFC South. Instead — and even with New Orleans and Tampa Bay struggling — the Panthers are an also-ran with



Dallas Cowboys running back Felix Jones falls into the end zone for a touchdown in the first half of an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens in Baltimore, Sunday, Oct. 14, 2012.

Associated Press

one win, ranked 23rd in yards gained and 25th in points scored; in 2011 they finished seventh in total offense and fifth in points scored.

"This team relies heavily on this offense, and that's been different than in years past," veteran receiver Steve Smith said. "And yet we haven't done anything consistently that would help our defense stay off the field. All we've done is kind of been muddling around a little bit and been real lethargic and left

(the defense) out there on the field longer than they should be."

The Pittsburgh Steelers can't be accused of that; their offense has been very protective of the ball (only four turnovers) and quite productive through the air, ranking seventh in yards passing. But Pittsburgh has the appearance of a team in transition, particularly on the offensive line and everywhere on defense, where injuries have been damaging — star safety Troy Polamalu won't play

Sunday night.

"It comes down to play-making," coach Mike Tomlin said, "and we haven't made enough significant plays."

When they head to Cincinnati, the Steelers will find an AFC North rival which is reeling. The Bengals flopped against Miami at home, then in Cleveland, handing the Browns their first win. Their big-play defense has yet to materialize.

"It's not time to jump ship," offensive tackle Andrew Whitworth said. "We're 3-3 just like everybody else in our conference. At the end of the day, it's not about wins and losses, it's about who makes the playoffs."

"Our goals are all still right there in front of us. Somebody that's 3-3 has to go win some games and get in the playoffs. Why not be us?" The American Football Conference teams features seven teams with 3-3 records, including the entire East division, and the only teams with winning records face each other when the Houston Texans welcome Baltimore. The Ravens had a rousing 31-29 victory over Dallas last

weekend, but it was way too costly. The right triceps injury that likely will sideline Ray Lewis for the remainder of the season takes away Baltimore's heart and soul, their true leader. And the left knee injury to Lardarius Webb that requires surgery takes away the team's best cover cornerback.

"Well you don't replace it specifically," coach John Harbaugh said of losing Lewis. "We'll all have to replace, it'll be up to all of us, 53 players, 20 coaches, front office, scouts, cafeteria workers, we're all going to have to grab onto the rope on that one. He's ... arguably one of the greatest leaders in all of sports." After its first stumble of the season with a loss to Green Bay, Houston can grab back the inside track to being the AFC's elite team. Not that the Texans have it in mind.

"This is what, the seventh game of the season? We're not even halfway finished," running back Arian Foster said. "So it could go downhill or uphill, either way. So nobody's thinking about that. We're just thinking about winning Game 7." □

49ers make just enough plays, hold off Seahawks

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

The San Francisco 49ers sit alone atop the NFC West division after a 13-6 win over the Seattle Seahawks on Thursday.

Alex Smith threw a 12-yard touchdown pass to Delanie Walker late in the third quarter and San Francisco won their long-awaited division opener.

Frank Gore ran for 131 yards as the 49ers took over sole possession of first place in the NFC West. They made just enough plays to win this defense-first game, featuring two teams allowing fewer than 16 points per game.

Walker's score was San Francisco's first touchdown in seven quarters after an embarrassing 26-3 loss to the New York Giants on



San Francisco 49ers tight end Delanie Walker (46) beats Seattle Seahawks free safety Earl Thomas (29) for a pass and runs into the end zone for a touchdown in the third quarter on October 18, 2012 at Candlestick Park in San Francisco, Calif.

Associated Press

Sunday in a lopsided reprise of last year's NFC championship game. The tight end broke his jaw at Seattle last Dec. 24 and sat out until the title game.

Smith went 14 of 23 for 140 yards in another subpar performance.

NFC rushing leader Marshawn Lynch finished with 103 yards for Seattle.

It's now Jim Harbaugh 3, Pete Carroll 0 since these two coaching rivals started facing off in the NFL last year after all those memorable moments in college football.

Harbaugh's teams have shown they are quick to forget their losses. The 49ers improved to 5-0 after regular-season defeats since Harbaugh took over.

Gore had his third 100-yard game of the season, not to

be outdone by Lynch on the other side.

Lynch carried 19 times and bounced back from a 41-yard outing in Sunday's home win against New England. The 49ers' top-ranked defense hadn't allowed a 100-yard rusher in 22 consecutive home games but now have given up two in five days. Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson went 9 of 23 for 122 yards, an interception and two sacks. He had several deep balls in the first half that were right on target but the receivers couldn't come down with the football. Another key miss helped seal it for San Francisco.

On Seattle's second-to-last drive, Patrick Willis tipped a pass by Wilson on third-and-12 just before the 2-minute warning. □



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Cardinals beat Giants 8-3 to take 3-1 lead in NLCS

**By R.B. FALLSTROM
AP Sports Writer**

ST. LOUIS (AP) -- The St. Louis Cardinals are oh so close. They know better than to start celebrating yet.

To a man, the defending World Series champions kept their latest victory in perspective Thursday night. Before cashing in another wild-card run to a second straight pennant, they've still got to beat the San Francisco Giants one more time. "We're not taking the last game to get into the World Series for granted," Matt Holliday said after an 8-3 win put St. Louis up 3-1 in the best-of-seven NL championship series with a chance to wrap it up at home. "The Giants have proven they're a great team and they had their backs to the wall against the Reds."

Seated next to Holliday on the podium, Adam Wainwright chimed in: "Well said."

The Giants won three straight to eliminate Cincinnati in the division series. Now they have to do it again against a team that appears to have everything working.

"They do have something, there's no getting around that," San Francisco manager Bruce Bochy said. "It's not over. We've been in this position. We know it's an uphill battle, but we've been here before."

The Giants are in a hole after Wainwright threw seven innings of four-hit ball and St. Louis' offense roughed up Tim Lincecum and the San Francisco bullpen.

"This is where we are and what we've got to deal with," Hunter Pence said. "The last series we were

down in a similar situation, but this is a new series."

The Cardinals can close it out at home Friday night in Game 5. Lance Lynn faces Giants lefty Barry Zito, and a St. Louis win would set up a 2006 World Series rematch with Detroit.

Plus, the Cardinals could have Carlos Beltran back in the lineup. Beltran missed virtually all of Games 3 and 4 with a left knee strain but is optimistic about playing in Game 5 after doing some jogging and hitting indoors Thursday.

"Right now, the plan is to come in tomorrow and do what I have to do in order to be in the lineup," said Beltran, who is batting .375 in the postseason with three homers and six RBIs. "Today was a better day for me, better than yesterday. "Tomorrow is the day I need to go for it."

Holliday, Jon Jay and Yadier Molina had two RBIs apiece to lead a 12-hit outburst by a team that batted just .198 through the first three games of the series.

Lincecum was a bust in his first postseason start since the 2010 World Series clincher over Texas, giving up four runs in 4 2-3 innings.

"That second inning was a little bit laborious, but the third and fourth were a little bit better and I thought I was going to carry it further

in the game," Lincecum said. "I ran into some bumps in that fifth."

The two-time Cy Young Award winner with the quirky delivery earned a shot based on nearly spotless relief work earlier in the postseason but reverted to regular-season form, when he was 10-15 with a 5.18 ERA, worst among qualifying starters in the National League.

Wainwright was a glorified cheerleader while rehabbing from reconstructive elbow surgery during the Cardinals' improbable title drive last fall. They earned the wild card on the final day of the season and then upset the favored Phillies, Brewers and Rangers to give manager Tony La Russa a chance to retire on top.

Under rookie manager Mike Matheny, the 88-win Cardinals were the final team to qualify this year, too. Once again, they've stepped up their game.

Wainwright bounced back from a poor outing in Game 5 of the NL division series against Washington, striking out five and walking none for his first postseason victory as a starter.

"It was a big motivator," he said. "I know that I'm good enough to pitch in the postseason, to carry this



Cardinals' Matt Carpenter scores on a single by Matt Holliday as San Francisco catcher Hector Sanchez is unable to handle the throw in fifth inning action during Game 4 of the National League Championship Series between the St. Louis Cardinals and the San Francisco Giants on Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012, at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, Mo.

Associated Press

team deep into the game, give them a quality game, a quality outing. Last time I didn't do it, but I knew tonight if I just believed in myself and went out there and executed pitches I would be in good shape." The lone damage against Wainwright came on Pence's first homer and RBI of the postseason, a second-inning clout estimated at 451 feet that soared over the visitor's bullpen into the left-center bleachers to cut the Cardinals' lead to 2-1.

Now, the 14-game winner

can just about taste his first World Series as an active player since striking out Brandon Inge as the stand-in closer for injured Jason Istringhausen in the 2006 clincher over the Tigers.

"This whole experience is so special as it is," Wainwright said. "But to get back to that World Series is always the way to go."

Holliday wasn't surprised by Wainwright's strong performance.

"You expect Adam to pitch well and pitch like an ace, and he did," Holliday said. □

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Freezing eggs for fertility works, caution urged

LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Freezing human eggs can be successful in treating infertility — but U.S. guidelines issued Friday still urge caution for women hoping to pause a ticking biological clock.

Egg freezing had long been labeled experimental, but the American Society for Reproductive Medicine declared that is no longer the case. The group cited studies that found younger women are about as likely to get pregnant if they used frozen-and-thawed eggs for their infertility treatment as if they used fresh ones.

The move is expected to help cancer patients preserve their fertility, by pushing more insurers to pay for their procedure, and to boost banking of donated eggs, similar to sperm banking.

Here is the controversy: Should otherwise healthy women freeze their eggs as sort of an insurance policy against infertility in case they do not meet Mr. Right — or just are not ready for motherhood — until their late 30s or beyond, when the childbearing window is closing fast?

The pricey technology, which insurance does not cover for elective reasons, is being marketed aggressively for just that use.

Yet the society that represents doctors who treat infertility stopped short of endorsing egg freezing solely for deferring childbearing until women are older. The conclusion: It's not at all clear who's a good candidate, or if women who store their eggs are being given a false sense of security.

"The bottom line is there is no guarantee," said Dr. Samantha Pfeifer of the University of Pennsylvania, who chaired the society's guideline committee. "A lot of women interested in using this technology are in their late 30s, early 40s, and they may have the worst success of anybody."

Anyone considering egg freezing needs careful counseling about their age

and the odds of success if they want to later thaw those eggs for use in in vitro fertilization, the guidelines stress. "It's an insurance policy that many of those women may never need to turn in," added Dr. Eric Widra of Georgetown University, who co-authored the guideline.

But proponents of egg freezing, known medically as oocyte cryopreservation, say lifting the experimental label will encourage more women to check out the option, and they'll make an educated choice. "It's none of our business to tell someone, 'No, you shouldn't delay childbear-

ing if you choose for whatever reason,'" said Dr. James Grifo of New York University, whose center has frozen more than 1,100 batches of eggs, mostly for elective fertility preservation. "It's not a promise. It's hope and insurance."

For Brigitte Adams of San Francisco, that hope of a future pregnancy was worth paying about \$15,000 to freeze 11 eggs, especially when her parents covered half the bill.

"I'm glad I did it when I did it. I wish I had done it a few years earlier," said Adams, who had the procedure about a year ago at age 39. Her doctor estimated she'd have a 30 percent chance of pregnancy using those eggs later on, "and I thought a 30 percent chance was better than a zero chance."

Adams started a web site, eggsurance.com, to spread word of women's experiences with egg freezing. She says one of the most-asked questions is how to learn about clinics'

success rates using frozen eggs. Specialists say lifting the experimental label means more clinics will start publicly reporting that information like they do now for other infertility procedures.

Sperm routinely are frozen. So are the extra embryos of couples undergoing infertility treatment, in case they want to use them for later pregnancy attempts.

But eggs proved more delicate and difficult to freeze than sperm or embryos. The problem: Eggs contain lots of water, and early methods of freezing and thawing allowed ice crystals to form that could destroy or damage them. In the past decade, scientists created a flash-freezing method called vitrification that appears to overcome that challenge.

For a number of years, egg-freezing has been offered experimentally for young women or girls who are diagnosed with cancer or other serious illnesses that would destroy their ovaries. □



Egg freezing had long been labeled experimental, but the American Society for Reproductive Medicine declared that is no longer the case. The group cited studies that found younger women are about as likely to get pregnant if they used frozen-and-thawed eggs for their infertility treatment as if they used fresh ones.

(Handout Photo)

Fungus in tainted steroids, patients match

MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) —

The fungus found in tainted steroid shots matches the one behind the national meningitis outbreak that has killed 20 people, federal health officials said Thursday. The match confirms the link between the outbreak and the maker of the steroids, New England Compounding Center of Framingham, Massachusetts. Officials previously said they found fungus in more than 50 unopened vials from the company, but needed more tests to determine the kind of fungus.

The specialty pharmacy has been at the center of a federal and state investigation into more than 250 fungal meningitis cases. The death toll rose Thursday to 20.

The victims in the outbreak had all received steroid shots made by the pharmacy, mostly to treat back pain. The company last month recalled three lots

of the steroid made since May. It later shut down operations and recalled all the medicines it makes. The fungus was confirmed

outbreak illnesses to all three lots; tests are continuing on the other two lots.

The initial recall involved about 17,700 single-dose



Federal agents investigate the offices of New England Compounding Center in Framingham, Mass., Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2012. — The fungus found in tainted steroid shots matches the one behind the national meningitis outbreak that has killed 20 people, federal health officials said Thursday.

(AP Photo/The Boston Globe, Barry Chin)

in one steroid batch made in August, according to the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC has linked

vials of the steroid sent to clinics in 23 states. As many as 14,000 people got shots from the three lots.

The company released a statement Thursday after-

noon that said, in part: "We are eager to review these findings as part of our continued cooperation with the CDC and FDA to identify the cause of this contamination."

The fungus in the vials — *Exserohilum rostratum* — is the same as that found in at least 45 people sickened with fungal meningitis.

"We were able to link the organism in these vials to the organism in the patients," said the CDC's Mary Brandt, whose lab did the testing. The FDA-CDC announcement did not say how many tested vials had that kind of fungus.

Exserohilum is common in dirt and grasses, but it rarely causes illness and has never before been identified as a cause of meningitis, CDC officials have said.

Meningitis is caused by the inflammation of protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord. Tainted spinal injections would directly put germs into that part of the body. □

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Google opens window into secretive data centers

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Google is opening a virtual window into the secretive data centers where an intricate maze of computers process Internet search requests, show YouTube video clips and distribute email for millions of people. The unprecedented peek is being provided through a new website unveiled Wednesday at [http://www.google.com/about/datacenters/gallery/\(hash\)/](http://www.google.com/about/datacenters/gallery/(hash)/). The site features photos from inside some of the eight data centers that Google Inc. already has running in the U.S., Finland and Belgium. Google is also building data centers in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Chile.

Virtual tours of a North Carolina data center also will be available through Google's "Street View" service, which is usually used to view photos of neighborhoods around the world. The photographic access to Google's data centers coincides with the publication of a Wired magazine article about how the company builds and operates them. The article is written by Steven Levy, a journalist who won Google's trust while writing "In The Plex," a book published last year about the company's philosophy and evolution. The data centers represent Google's nerve center, although none are located near the company's headquarters in Mountain View, California.

As Google blossomed from its roots in a Silicon Val-



This undated photo provided by Google shows a Google data center in in Douglas Country, Ga. Associated Press

ley garage, company co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin worked with other engineers to develop a system to connect low-cost computer servers in a way that would help them realize their ambition to provide a digital roadmap to all of the world's information. Initially, Google just wanted enough computing power to index all the websites on the Internet and deliver quick responses to search requests. As Google's tentacles extended into other markets, the company had to keep adding more computers to store videos, photos, email and information about their users' preferences.

The insights that Google gathers about the more

than 1 billion people that use its services has made the company a frequent target of privacy complaints around the world. The latest missive came Tuesday in Europe, where regulators told Google to revise a 7-month-old change to its privacy policy that enables the company to combine user data collected from its different services.

Google studies Internet search requests and Web surfing habits in an effort to gain a better understanding of what people like. The company does this in an effort to show ads of products and services to the people most likely to be interested in buying them. Advertising accounts for virtually all of Google's revenue, which

peer into its data centers, Google intends to closely guard physical access to its buildings. The company also remains cagey about how many computers are in its data centers, saying only that they house hundreds of thousands of machines to run Google's services.

Google's need for so many computers has turned the company a major electricity user, although management says it's constantly looking for ways to reduce power consumption to protect the environment and lower its expenses.

The company's data centers are located in: Berkeley County, South Carolina; Council Bluffs, Iowa; Douglas County, Georgia; Mayes County, Oklahoma; Lenoir, North Carolina; The Dalles, Oregon; Hamina, Finland;



This undated photo provided by Google shows a Google technician working on some of the computers in the Dalles, Ore., data center.

Associated Press

totalled nearly \$23 billion through the first half of this year. Even as it allows anyone with a Web browser to

and St. Ghislain, Belgium. Other data centers are being built in Quilicura, Chile; Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan. □

Homes data, earnings drag down markets



A home for sale in Miami Lakes, Fla. U.S. sales of previously occupied homes fell in September after hitting a two-year high in August, in part because there were fewer homes available for sale. The National Association of Realtors said Friday, Oct. 19, 2012 that sales dipped 1.7 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.75 million. That's down from a rate of 4.83 million in August, which was the highest in more than two years.

(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Poor corporate earnings reports pounded the stock market Friday in a sour end to an otherwise strong week of trading. The Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 200 points for its worst day in four months. Disappointing results from three giants of the Dow — Microsoft, General Electric and McDonald's — were to blame. But the broader market fell, too, and the Standard & Poor's 500 in-

dex fared even worse in percentage terms. The Dow sank 205.43 points, or 1.5 percent, to close at 13,343.51. The S&P lost 24.15, or 1.7 percent, to 1,433.19. The Nasdaq composite index, hammered by a second ugly day for Google, lost 67.25 points to 3,005.62, a 2.2 percent decline. The big drops Friday left the Dow and S&P clinging to gains for the week. Financial analysts expect corporate earnings for July through September to be

lower than the same period a year ago, which would be the first yearly decline in three years.

Through Thursday, with 115 companies in the S&P 500 reporting, earnings were down 3.7 percent compared with a year earlier, according to Thomson Reuters, a financial data provider, and ING, a financial company.

"And once you get one quarter of negative earnings, it's a precursor," said Doug Cote, chief market strategist at ING Investment Management in New York. "It's the cockroach theory: If you find one, there's probably many more."

All 10 industry groups in the S&P 500 fell, led by technology and materials stocks. For a time Home Depot and Bank of America were the only stocks in the Dow trading higher for the day, but by 3 p.m. they were lower, too.

Google continued its slump, losing \$13.21 to \$681.79, a day after its earnings report was accidentally hours ahead of schedule. The report raised questions for Google and other Internet companies about ads that target mobile devices.

It's been a tough week for technology companies. IBM pointed to Europe's troubles and slowing business spending when it posted weaker revenue than analysts expected. □

Stronger dollar digests McDonald's 3Q results

MAE ANDERSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Tough competition in the U.S. and the weakening economy abroad was a double whammy for McDonald's in the third-quarter, sending the burger chain's net income down nearly 4 percent.

McDonald's said it was adjusting some of its plans to deal with the pressures, including stepping up advertising for its dollar menu and bringing back the popular McRib sandwich nationally in December to drive traffic into U.S. stores. The world's largest hamburger chain with 33,000 locations worldwide has thrived in boom and bust

ever that this operating environment is the new normal. As such our near-term focus is on stabilizing and growing traffic and market share."

In Europe, where McDonald's does 40 percent of its business, revenue in stores open at least 13 months rose 1.8 percent, hurt by negative guest traffic.

In Asia/Pacific, the Middle East and Africa, the measure rose 1.4 percent as the company promoted limited-time offers and traffic increased.

In China, the measure rose 3.6 percent. Many U.S. companies are focusing on China for growth, but there is concern of a slowdown in the country. But Thompson



People buy ice cream at a McDonald's, American fast food restaurant, in Beijing Friday, Oct. 19, 2012. Tough competition in the U.S. and the weakening economy abroad was a double whammy for McDonald's in the third-quarter, sending the burger chain's net income down nearly 4 percent.

(AP Photo/Andy Wong)

GE 3Q earnings rise; revenue disappoints

JONATHAN FAHEY
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — General Electric Co.'s transformation into a more simple industrial company seems to be helping its bottom line. The top line, though, is lagging slightly. GE's net income rose 49 percent in the third quarter to \$3.49 billion, or 33 cents per share. On an adjusted basis, GE earned 36 cents per share, in line

analysts' expectations and up 13 percent from a year earlier. Revenue rose \$1 billion, or 3 percent, to \$36.35 billion. But analysts were looking for revenue of \$36.95 billion and GE shares fell 2.8 percent in afternoon trading. The relatively weak global economy is forcing GE to cut back, though, to protect profits. The company said it is on track to cut \$2.8 billion this year as part

of its "simplification" efforts. This is helping profit margins. GE's operating profit margin grew to 14.4 percent from 13.7 percent in the third quarter.

GE earned 22 cents in the year-earlier quarter. During that period the company repaid \$3 billion to Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway for its investment in GE during the depths of the financial crisis. □

times by selling cheap eats and constantly updating its menu. But global economic pressures and intensifying competition are wearing at the company, which does two-thirds of its business overseas.

"When economic crisis began in 2008,

few people thought the environment would still be as uncertain and fragile as it is today," said CEO Don Thompson in a call with analysts. "It is clear how-

said the country is a "market with significant potential," and that McDonald's is on track to open 225 to 250 restaurants there this year, with the goal of having 2000 open by the end of 2013.

Thompson said revenue in stores open at least 13 months, a key restaurant metric, is trending negative so far in October.

That news sent shares down \$3.31, or 3.6 percent, to \$89.55 in trading. □



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Moody's warns of weak German banking sector

JACK EWING

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FRANKFURT, Germany –

The debt ratings agency Moody's Investors Service provided a reminder Friday that the vaunted German economy has a major weakness: its banking system.

In a report, Moody's warned that German banks suffer from meager profits, rising risk and insufficient reserves to absorb losses. The rating agency reaffirmed the negative outlook it has assigned to German banks since 2008.

The poor state of German banks seems surprising considering that the country's economy has held up fairly well to the euro zone crisis. In addition, German banks benefit from the country's status as a haven from the turmoil and are able to borrow money at much lower rates than counterparts in other European countries.

There is no real estate bubble and households are not over-indebted.

German banks did, however, invest heavily in countries like Spain and Italy before the crisis, because they could earn more profits there than at home. Four years after the financial crisis began, they remain exposed to problems in those countries, Moody's said.

In addition, Moody's said, Germany still has too many banks in relation to the size of the country. The oversupply pushes down lending rates and profits.

"Intense competition and low interest rates are causing margin pressure that will likely further erode already-weak bank revenues and profits," Moody's said in a statement early Friday.

The combination of low profits and high leverage "will make it difficult for many German banks to cope with major (unfore-

seen) losses," Moody's said. The report comes after European leaders meeting in Brussels until early Friday agreed on legislation that

problems in Spanish banks. But the leaders were vague on when the new regulatory regime will take shape, apparently in deference to

municipalities and are a formidable lobby in Berlin.

Moody's examined 41 large lenders which it said accounted for 85 percent of loans in Germany. But it noted banks it did not include in the report may also be vulnerable. "Many of the more retail-oriented German savings banks and local cooperative banks are less stressed, although they, too, face growth and margin pressures," Moody's said.

Most of the debate in Europe has focused on Spanish banks like Bankia, and the cost to the government of rescuing them. As in Spain, though, many German banks are partly or wholly owned by local governments. Their lending decisions can be skewed by political considerations, and the owners are reluctant to close them or reduce them in size when business declines. □



The debt ratings agency Moody's Investors Service provided a reminder Friday that the vaunted German economy has a major weakness: its banking system. (Handout Photo)

will concentrate banking supervision at the European Central Bank, a measure aimed at preventing national regulators from favoring their own banks. Weak regulation is blamed on

German political sensitivities.

German leaders have resisted giving up supervisory control of smaller and mid-sized banks, which are often owned by states or mu-

An SEC filer's nightmare: making it public too soon

SHAILA DEWAN

© 2012 New York Times

The contractors who file earnings reports and other documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission live in fear of pushing the "send" button too soon.

These agents, who use an electronic system called Edgar, know that a new SEC filing becomes instantly available online. Timing is a matter of strategy, with companies calibrating their releases to market hours. Deadlines can be missed, deals can fall through and stock prices can plunge unchecked if financial information is disclosed unexpectedly.

"It doesn't happen often," said Ron Passaro, a former filing agent in Manhattan. "The risk is insane."

He added: "There's really no way to pull it down once it's up. You have to go through a lot of hoops and hurdles to pull it down, and by that time the damage is done."

Posted information is quickly replicated by third-party websites. Once several websites pulled Bill Gates' Social Security number from SEC filings and publicized it.

On Thursday, Google said its filing agent, R.R.

Donnelley & Sons, released its earnings several hours earlier than planned. The company's stock dropped by nearly 10 percent, and trades were frozen for several hours.

Donnelley responded, "We are fully engaged in an investigation to determine how this event took place and are pursuing our first obligation – which is to serve our valued customer."

Thankfully, several filing agents said, such errors are rare – and rarely are newsworthy.

"I can't remember one that's been apparently as bad as this one," said Alexander Zervakos, the president of Securex, a Denver-based filing service.

Zervakos said his company had several safeguards against early posting and that employees were trained to look for signs of an unfinished document and personal information, like Social Security numbers or home addresses, that is sometimes inadvertently included.

In Google's case, the document filed said "pending Larry quote," indicating the place where a quote from the chief executive, Larry Page, was supposed to be inserted.

It is not clear how much liability R.R. Donnelley might bear for any losses Google incurred be-

cause of the early release of the report. Some have suggested that it will not be much because the earnings reported were accurate. But James Plumb, a longtime filing agent in Massachusetts, said he knew of at least one case in which an agent had to pay for its error, although it was two decades ago.

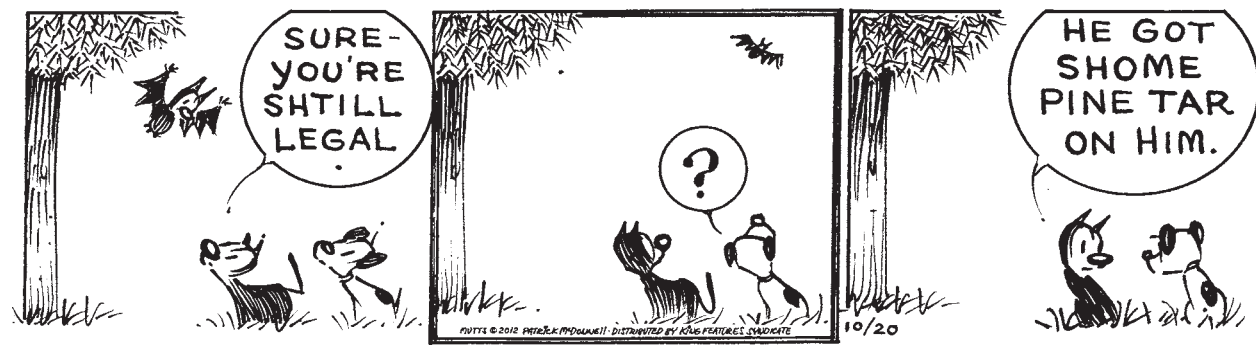
"Could you get sued? Sure," he said. "The way I look at it, yes, if I make a mistake, I'm responsible."

R.R. Donnelley is the largest filing agent, according to secinfo.com, and has filed more than half a million documents with the SEC over the past decade. It handled the filings for the Facebook initial public offering and files reports for large companies, including General Motors, Toyota and Michael Kors Holdings.

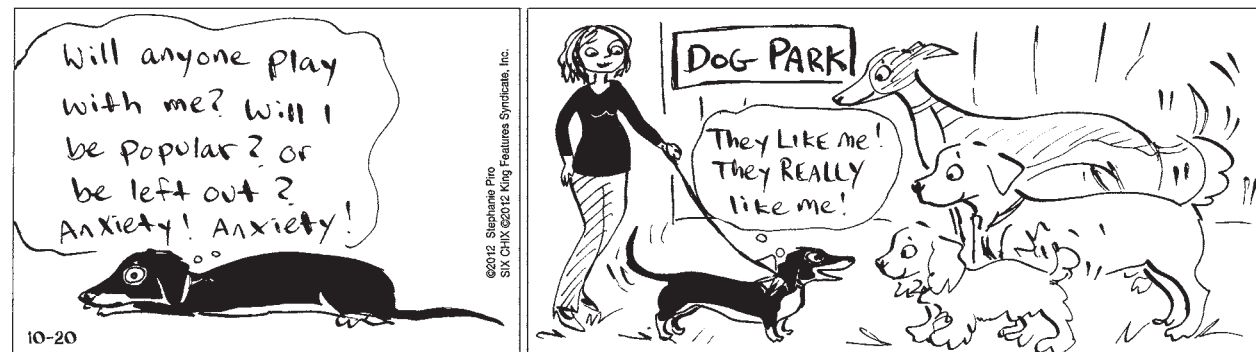
But filing documents is a tiny part of Donnelley's huge printing business – providing about \$225 million out of \$10.5 billion in revenue, analysts said. The company prints catalogs, mailers, textbooks and magazines, among other items.

R.R. Donnelley recently expanded its financial printing operation, acquiring two companies that also specialize in filing, Edgar Online and Bowne. □

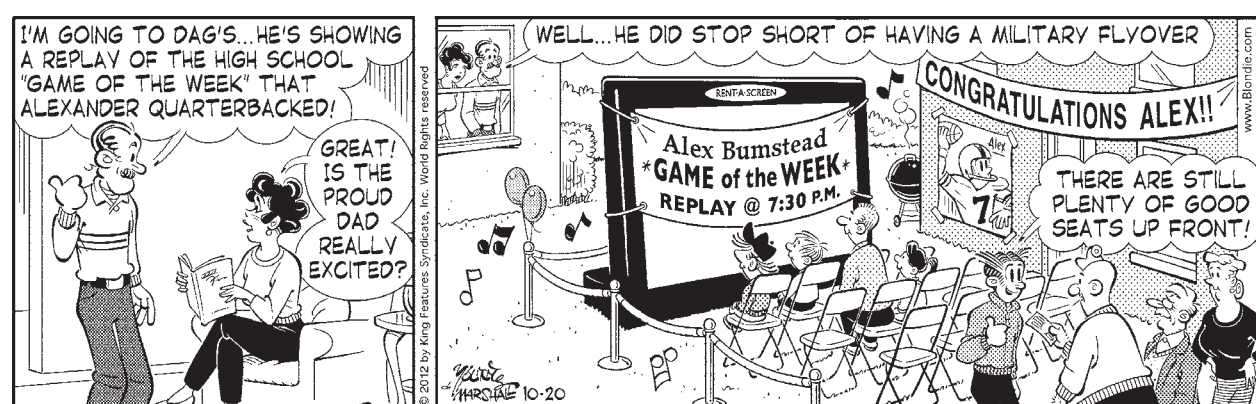
Mutts



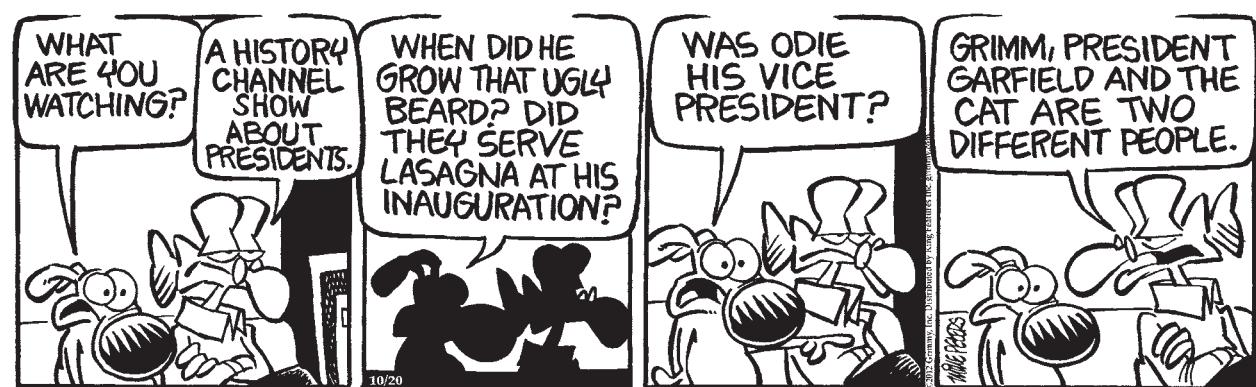
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

7			4					
			2	7		1		3
	9	5				4		
8	6			2			4	
	2						5	9
			1				3	6
7		2		9	8			
				3			7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

10/20

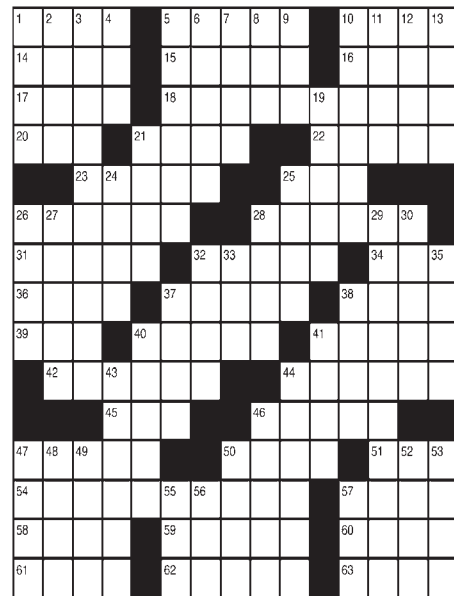
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	8	1	5	4	6	2	9	3
3	5	4	1	9	2	6	7	8
2	9	6	7	8	3	4	5	1
1	3	5	6	7	8	9	4	2
4	2	8	9	5	1	7	3	6
9	6	7	3	2	4	8	1	5
8	7	3	4	6	5	1	2	9
5	4	2	8	1	9	3	6	7
6	1	9	2	3	7	5	8	4

ACROSS

- Choose
- Car accident
- As strong __ ox
- Late tennis pro Arthur __
- Japanese verse of 3 lines
- __ tag; ID label
- Pottery material
- Rude
- Norton or Berry
- Performs
- "__ home is his castle"
- Ship levels
- Luau dish
- Scissors
- Residents of Italy's capital
- One of the vital signs
- Native New Zealander
- Dine
- Leave out
- Eskimo canoe
- Big name in soccer
- Even score
- Any two-footed animal
- Family car
- Reveries
- Open lands for farming
- Pompous fool
- Serving utensil
- Gush forth
- Ten-cent piece
- Yrbk. section
- Filled tube-shaped pasta
- Continent east of Russia
- Nurse's helper
- Example to be imitated
- Misfortunes
- Trampled
- Terrible pain
- Deli loaves
- Down
- __ of Wight
- Hanging lamp
- Door opener
- Norris and Connors
- Talks wildly
- Goals
- Music from Jamaica
- Attila the __
- Red blood cell deficiency
- Actress Gilbert
- "So be it!"
- Beatty & others
- Mama Judd
- Farmland unit
- Vane direction
- White meat
- Catch sight of
- Muggy
- Highway
- To no purpose
- Lettuce dish
- World charts
- Vote from a bill's supporter
- ...eights, nines, __, jacks...
- Novak and Basinger
- Orange rind



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/20/12

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	O	P	S	S	C	A	N	C	A	P	E
T	O	W	I	T	A	K	E	A	W	O	L	
A	R	E	N	A	A	S	A	P	L	A	I	D
N	O	S	T	R	I	L	S	A	V	E	R	S
	O	I	N	K		S	L	E	N	D	E	R
D	O	E	S	N	T		I	L	I	A	D	
A	N	Y		G	E	E	S	E		L	A	C
N	E	E	D		R	E	A	P	S		R	O
A	S	S	E	S		R	A	T	I	O		E
	M	U	S	I	C		G	R	A	D	E	S
A	B	S	E	N	C	E		S	H	A	M	
C	R	I	N	G	E		B	E	T	T	E	R
H	I	N	T		N	A	I	L		O	L	I
E	D	G	E		E	T	T	E		R	I	P
S	E	E	D		S	E	E	S		S	A	S

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- Keep a cooking turkey moist
- __ with; support
- Made a salary __ man;
- Fine tablecloth fabric
- "Beat it!"
- Couple
- Disassemble
- Chowderhead
- Infuriate
- Talk back
- Alcott's initials
- Journal
- Lung contents

US gun industry thriving during Obama's term

EILEEN SULLIVAN
JACK GILLUM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tennessee lawyer Brian Manookian says he never considered himself a gun enthusiast. He owns just one handgun and was raised in a gun-free home. But the firearms industry has proven so successful in recent years that he decided to give up practicing law and make guns his livelihood.

It's a decision that's put Manookian on track to earn four times what he made as a corporate health care attorney, a job that earned him six figures right out of law school, he said.

And he's far from alone. An analysis by The Associated Press of data tracking the health of the gun industry shows that President Barack Obama has presided over a heyday for guns.

Sales are on the rise, so much that some manufacturers cannot make enough fast enough. Major gun company stock prices are up. The number of federally licensed, retail gun dealers is increasing for the first time in nearly 20 years. The U.S. gun lobby is bursting with cash and political clout. Washington has expressed little interest in passing new gun laws, despite renewed calls to do so after recent deadly shootings in Colorado and Wisconsin.

Four years ago the gun lobby predicted Obama would be the "most anti-gun president in American history." Yet it is hard to find a single aspect of the gun world that isn't thriving.

"The driver is President Obama. He is the best thing that ever happened to the firearm industry," said Jim Barrett, an industry analyst at C.L. King & Associates Inc. in New York.

Obama has made no pledges to push for new gun control legislation and does not have the support in Congress or among voters even if he did. During this week's presidential debate, he did suggest renewing a U.S. ban on assault weapons and coming up with an overall strategy to reduce violence. But

both Obama and Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney said the real need is for the government to enforce gun laws already on the books.

Meanwhile, sales are brisk. Since opening a \$5 million armory in Nashville last month, Manookian and his business partner have outdone their own expectations, selling inventory three

Prehn, who a year ago opened a small gun store above his dentistry practice in Wausau, Wis. In the past year, Prehn has relocated twice to larger spaces and gone from one employee to eight.

Some gun store owners can't keep shelves stocked, said Brian Jones, owner of Bullseye Shooter's supply in Painted Post, N.Y. Jones

small gun manufacturer that sells to a niche market, stopped taking orders this spring because the company had sold out the entire year's production, spokesman Jason Morton said. The company has stopped taking orders before, but never so early on the entire line, he said.

"Wouldn't you want to be in a business where customers are just begging to hand you money?" said Bill Bernstein, owner of East Side Gun Shop in Nashville. Obama is not yet through his first term, but the federal government already has conducted about as many background checks for gun owners and prospective buyers on his watch as it did during the first six years of George W. Bush's presidency. In the first 3 1/2 years of the Bush administration, the FBI conducted about 28 million background checks. During the same period of the Obama administration, the FBI conducted more than 50 million. The gun industry uses the number of background checks as a reliable indicator of demand.

Ruger and Smith & Wesson represent nearly 30 percent of the U.S. gun manufacturing industry and lead the market in production of pistols and revolvers, according to government statistics. The two companies have been running production lines around the clock, hiring workers and operating at maximum capacity, said Barrett, an industry analyst who also owns Ruger stock. Ruger's sales have increased 86 percent since Obama took office, and Smith & Wesson's sales have gone up nearly 44 percent, compared with 18 percent for overall national retail sales. □



Central Wisconsin Firearms owner Frederick Prehn in his store in Wausau, Wis. He says he's had to expand his business to the new location last summer because of increased gun sales. He attributes the spike to Wisconsin's new concealed carry law as well as the uncertainty about the upcoming election. President Barack Obama is presiding over a heyday for the gun industry despite predictions he would be the most anti-gun president in history. An Associated Press analysis finds gun sales are on the rise and stocks of major gun companies are up. The number of federally licensed gun dealers is increasing for the first time in nearly 20 years. And the National Rifle Association is bursting with cash and political clout.

(AP Photo/Carrie Antlfinger)

to four times faster than they expected. The facility has high ceilings and granite fixtures in the bathroom and provides instructional courses and a shooting range in addition to firearms for sale.

"It is a very strong investment," Manookian said. Others agree.

For the first time since 1993, the number of federally licensed retail gun dealers in the U.S. increased slightly in 2010 and 2011.

The country added 1,167 licensed retail gun dealers, according to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives records. After the assault weapons ban of 1994 — now expired — the number of gun dealerships dropped annually until 2010. As of October 2012, there were 50,812 retail gun dealers — 3,303 more than in 2009.

"Business has been very good," said Frederick

said he opened his gun store in November 2010. In his first year, he said he sold between 600 and 700 guns. A little more than halfway through his second year, he's already sold 700.

For the first time in the company's history, Sturm Ruger & Co. Inc. stopped taking orders for a couple of months this year. Ruger, one of the nation's largest gun manufacturers, has since resumed taking orders, though gun-sellers say demand is still outpacing production.

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Police

Police	581-1100
Oranjestad	582-4000
Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolas	584-5000

Emergency Numbers

Emergency	911
Police	100
Fire Dept.	115
Fire Dept. II	582-1108
Police Tipline	11141
Hospital	527-4000

Oranjestad

Ambulance	582-1234
Police	582-4000

San Nicolas

Ambulance	584-5050
Police Station	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

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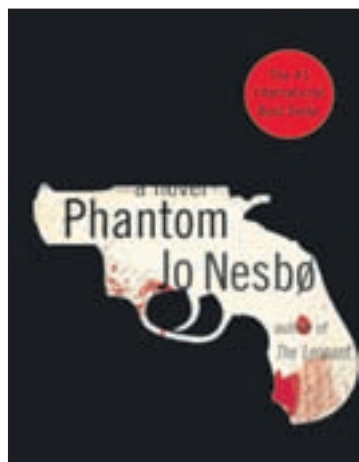
Oct. 20 Serenade of the Seas

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Foundation Amor pa Prohimo
Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976
Women in Difficulties Foundation
Tel: 583-5400

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Nesbo's 'Phantom' an addictive read



This book cover image released by Knopf shows "Phantom," by Jo Nesbo. Associated Press

By NAHAL TOOSI
Associated Press

Let it never be said that Jo Nesbo is afraid to take risks with his writing.

In all fairness, it's unlikely many would say that. This is an author, after all, who gave us a device that forces victims to choke on their own blood and a murderer without nipples. But Nesbo's most recent book, "Phantom," is twisted in a more psychological way than his past novels.

"Phantom" once again features Harry Hole, the physically and mentally tortured detective with a talent for catching serial killers. This time, though, Hole is on a more personal mission than usual.

The investigator returns to Oslo from self-exile in Hong Kong to prove that the son of the woman he loves is not a killer. The young man, Oleg, stands accused in the death of a fellow drug user, Gusto, who is a key narrator from beyond the grave in the book. Harry, who essentially views Oleg as his own son, simply cannot accept what the evidence says about him.

Hole takes a journey through Oslo's drug world where a new, highly potent substance called violin is rapidly destroying lives. And this time Hole is pretty much on his own (he's no longer a part of the police force), but yet he still has to deal with plenty of police and political bureaucracy.



This Oct. 7, 2012 photo shows Garth Brooks singing "Papa Loved Mama," a song written by Kim Williams, as Williams is inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tenn. On Sunday, Oct. 21, Brooks will be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Associated Press

Brooks heads for Country Hall of Fame, looks ahead

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Garth Brooks will spend Sunday looking back when he's inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, touching on some of the greatest moments of the most electric career in country history. "It's so exciting," Brooks said. "I'm trying to be somewhat professional or somewhat have manners or something, but I'm probably going to be Garth and fall apart."

Unlike most honorees, whose best performances are usually behind them at this point, there's a chance the semi-retired superstar could continue a career that helped country music evolve from a regional sound to an international phenomenon.

At 50, Brooks has been mulling a return, occasionally hinting at what's to come. He went into retirement about a decade ago so he could be around the house while his three daughters grew up, and he's mostly stuck to that plan — though he did agree to a three-year stint

in Las Vegas that recently ended and he's played charity concerts, including a nine-gig run following the Nashville flood in 2010.

Two of his daughters have graduated high school and moved on to college and Brooks said in an interview before the recent Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame induction that he and his wife Trisha Yearwood have been kicking around ideas about what the second act of his career might entail.

"We're just going to start," Brooks said. "It will be fun. We've got our youngest baby (Allie), this is her junior year, and she's really in touch. Now, down from three to one (at home), you spend a lot more time with that one. She's in on every plan. She knows all the decisions. She's really well-educated in what's going on."

"I think she's ready for us to go on the road because she'll be home by herself," Yearwood joked. "She's doing every after-school activity you can do. 'You don't just want to sit and stare at us?' It's really fun." Fun might be the perfect word to describe Brooks'

one-of-a-kind career. The Oklahoma native, who will be inducted with Connie Smith and Hargus "Pig" Robbins, got his start playing for tips in bars near the Oklahoma State campus and went on to become the third highest-selling act in U.S. history. He has sold more than 128 million albums — more than anyone except The Beatles and Elvis Presley. Brooks could start adding to that tally by making a simple announcement to Music Row: Send me your songs. "You talk about songwriters, the great ones can birth a career, but the greatest ones can bring life back into one," Brooks said. "So we'll be looking hard for songs just to see what the future might hold for us."

One of the songwriters who'd like to make a contribution if the singer returns is Kim Williams, who has written four No. 1 hits with Brooks.

"I think it will be incredible," Williams said. "I don't know if the (album) sales will ever be what they were because of downloading and all those things have changed." □



This May 3, 2010 file photo shows actress Jessica Biel and actor-singer Justin Timberlake at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute gala in New York. Associated Press

Jessica Biel, Justin Timberlake marry in Italy

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel got married.

"It's great to be married, the ceremony was beautiful and it was so special to be surrounded by our family and friends," the couple said in a statement released Friday to People magazine.

Biel spokeswoman Meredith O'Sullivan Wasson confirmed the report.

The 31-year-old Timberlake and 30-year-old Biel were wed in southern Italy. The couple got engaged in December after dating for several years.

Timberlake, who has been acting more than singing lately, stars in the Clint Eastwood baseball film, "The Trouble with the Curve." Biel stars in the remake of "Total Recall." She can next be seen in "Hitchcock." □



Tom Hanks lets obscenity slip on television show

NEW YORK (AP) — ABC and Tom Hanks are apologizing after the actor let slip a swear word during a live appearance on “Good Morning America.” Hanks telegraphed his “f-bomb” during an interview Friday. Anchor Elizabeth Vargas had asked him to speak in his character’s British accent in the movie “Cloud Atlas.” Hanks said that it was “mostly swear words,” but Vargas told him to go ahead anyway. He began speaking in a mumble but the obscenity was clearly audible. ABC removed it for subsequent feeds of the show in the Midwest and West. Vargas quickly said, “We are so sorry, ‘Good Morning America.’” Hanks also apologized — and said he’d probably have a seven-second delay next time he’s on the show. □



This image released by ABC shows actor Tom Hanks during an interview segment on “Good Morning America,” Friday, Oct. 19, 2012 in New York.

Associated Press

An excited Drake: ‘I got my high school diploma’

By MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A day after earning his high school diploma, an excited Drake performed hit songs for a few hundred people at an event for Tyra Banks. The 25-year-old told the crowd Thursday night that he took a small break from music and “spent some time going back to high school.” “I got my high school diploma,” he said with excitement as the crowd roared. Drake also posted on Twitter late Wednesday that he earned a 97 percent on his final exam and an 88 percent in his last class through work with a private tutor. The Canadian dropped out of high school, ironically, to star in the high school TV series “Degrassi: The Next Generation.” He played the role of Jimmy Brooks. The Grammy-nominated musician performed hits like “Best I Ever Had,” “Find



In this June 26, 2011 file photo, Drake arrives at the BET Awards in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Your Love” and “The Motto” at Banks’ first annual Flawsome Ball for The Tyra Banks TZONE at the Lower Eastside Girls Club, her organization aimed at developing confidence in girls. He dedicated his song, “Make Me Proud,” to the supermodel. Rosario Dawson, Clay Aiken and Estelle also attended the gala event in New York at Capitale. □



In this Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2012 photo, Ava DuVernay, writer/director of the film “Middle of Nowhere,” poses for a portrait in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Oprah-approved: Ava DuVernay fires up black cinema

SANDY COHEN
Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The rebirth of black independent film is taking place in a small office in the San Fernando Valley. This is where filmmaker Ava DuVernay and her staff of two operate AaFFRM, the African-American Film Festival Releasing Movement, a boutique distribution company dedicated to discovering and promoting black directorial voices. The fledgling company has released just four films since 2010, but one of its artists has already caught the attention of Oprah Winfrey: DuVernay herself. Winfrey has repeatedly told her 14 million Twitter followers about DuVernay’s latest film, “Middle of Nowhere,” which expands to 14 more cities Friday after opening in six theaters last week. She described the film as “powerful and poetic.” “Excellent job especially with no money,” Winfrey tweeted to DuVernay. “Bravo to you my sistah.” The 40-year-old DuVernay, whose easy smile, animated energy and passionate dedication make her seem a decade younger, beams

as she says, “I’m living my dream.” There’s a massive congratulatory bouquet of orchids on the desk in her small office overlooking Van Nuys Boulevard. A bookshelf is crowded with recent awards, including the best director prize she won at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year. (She was the first black woman ever to win.) Posters from her first documentary and first narrative feature adorn the walls. A magnum of Moet with a big gold bow on top sits on the floor. Just a little over a year ago, DuVernay was a Hollywood publicist focused on other people’s movies. Through her namesake public-relations firm, she helped develop release strategies for films such as “The Help,” “Invictus” and “Dreamgirls,” while quietly dreaming of telling her own stories. In 2002, the Los Angeles native and UCLA graduate sat down and wrote “Middle of Nowhere,” a story set in her hometown about a young medical student coping with her husband’s recent eight-year jail sen-

tence. “Where I’m from, it’s impossible not to look at this real epidemic in black and brown communities of incarceration and the women who are left behind,” said DuVernay, who grew up in and around Compton. She pitched the script to some of her Hollywood colleagues, but got no traction and shelved it. “Everyone in town has a script in the drawer, so I just joined the club,” she said. Undaunted, she wrote a second screenplay, “I Will Follow,” which became her first feature — produced in 2011 with her own \$50,000 savings. It earned raves from Roger Ebert and nearly tripled its budget in ticket sales. “It proved there was an audience for low-budget, thoughtful films for women and people of color,” she said. So she went back to her original script with new confidence, making the film last year for around \$200,000. Set against a social-justice backdrop of prison inequity, the film is more about the interior lives of the women it features. □

Snow Job On Jobs



PAUL KRUGMAN

© 2012 New York Times

Mitt Romney talks a lot about jobs. But does he have a plan to create any? You can defend President Barack Obama's jobs record – recovery from a severe financial crisis is always difficult, and especially so when the opposition party does its best to block every policy initiative you propose. And things have definitely improved over the past year. Still, unemployment remains high after all these years, and a candidate with a real plan to make things better could make a strong case for his election.

But Romney, it turns out, doesn't have a plan; he's just faking it. In saying that, I don't mean that I disagree with his economic philosophy; I do, but that's a separate point. I mean, instead, that Romney's campaign is telling lies: claiming that its numbers add up when they don't, claiming that independent studies support its position when those studies do no such thing. Before I get there, however, let me take a minute to talk about Romney's claim that he knows how to fix the economy because he's been a successful businessman. That would be a dubious claim even if he were honestly representing his business career, because the skills needed to run a business and those needed to manage economic policy are very different. In any case, however, his portrait of his own experience is so misleading that it takes your breath away.

For Romney, who started as a business consultant and then moved into the heady world of private equity, insists on portraying himself as a plucky small-business man.

I am not making this up. In

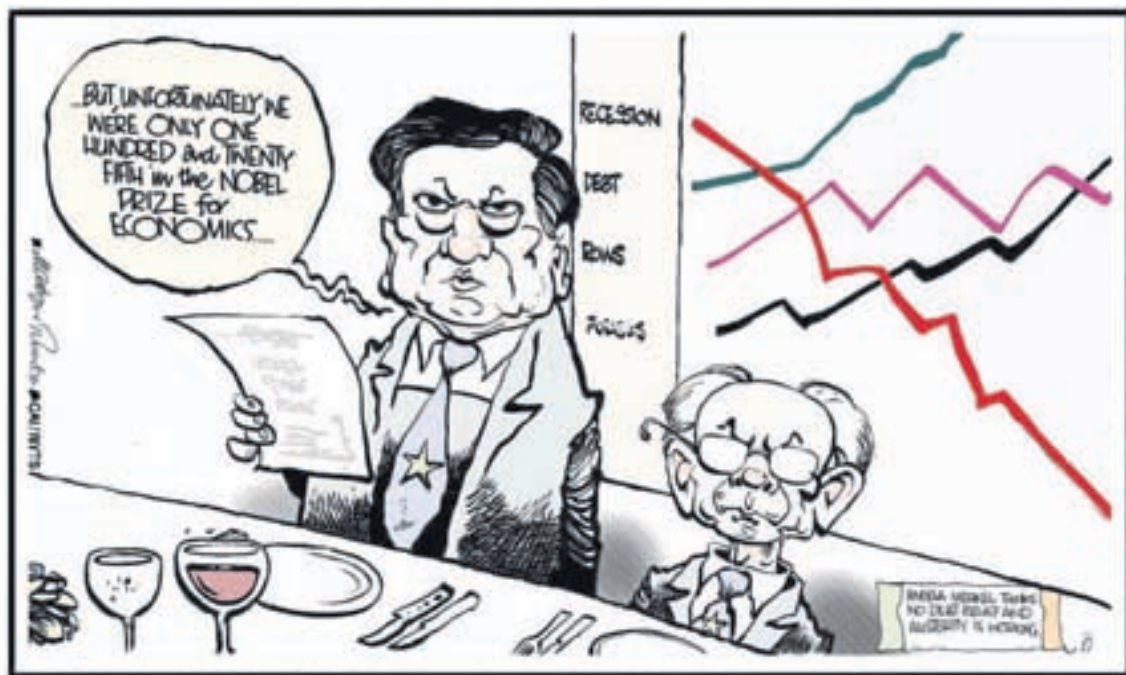
Tuesday's debate, he declared, "I came through small business. I understand how hard it is to start a small business." In his speech at the Republican convention, he declared, "When I was 37, I helped start a small company."

Ahem. It's true that when Bain Capital started, it had only a handful of employees. But it had \$37 million in funds, raised from sources that included wealthy Europeans investing through Panamanian shell companies and Central American oligarchs living in Miami while death squads associated with their families ravaged their home nations. Hey, doesn't every plucky little startup have access to that kind of financing? But back to the Romney jobs plan. As many people have noted, the plan has five points but contains no specifics. Loosely speaking, however, it calls for a return to Bushonomics: tax cuts for the wealthy plus weaker environmental protection. And Romney says that the plan would create 12 million jobs over the next four years.

Where does that number come from? When pressed, the campaign cited three studies that it claimed supported its assertions. In fact, however, those studies did no such thing.

Just for the record, one study concluded that America might gain 2 million jobs if China stopped infringing on U.S. patents and other intellectual property; this would be nice, but Romney hasn't proposed anything that would bring about that outcome. Another study suggested that growth in the energy sector might add 3 million jobs in the next few years – but these were predicted gains under current policy, that is, they would happen no matter who wins the election, not as a consequence of the Romney plan.

Finally, a third study examined the effects of the Romney tax plan and argued (implausibly, but that's another issue) that it would lead to a large increase in the number of Americans who want to work. □



A Sad Green Story



DAVID BROOKS

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The period around 2003 was the golden spring of green technology. John McCain and Joe Lieberman introduced a bipartisan bill to curb global warming. I got my first ride in a Prius from a conservative foreign policy hawk who said that these new technologies were going to help us end our dependence on Middle Eastern despots. You'd go to Silicon Valley and all the venture capitalists, it seemed, were rushing into clean tech.

From that date on the story begins to get a little sadder.

Al Gore released his movie "An Inconvenient Truth" in 2006. The global warming issue became associated with the highly partisan former vice president. Gore mobilized liberals, but, once he became the global warming spokesman, no Republican could stand shoulder to shoulder with him and survive. Any slim chance of building a bipartisan national consensus was gone.

Then, in 2008, Barack

Obama seized upon green technology and decided to make it the centerpiece of his jobs program. During his presidential campaign he promised to create 5 million green tech jobs. Renewable energy has many virtues, but it is not a jobs program. Obama's stimulus package set aside \$90 billion for renewable energy loans and grants, but the number of actual jobs created has been small. Articles began to appear in the press of green technology grants that were costing \$2 million per job created. The program began to look like a wasteful disappointment. Federal subsidies also created a network of green tech corporations hoping to benefit from taxpayer dollars. One of the players in this network was, again, Al Gore. As Carol Leonnig reported in The Washington Post last week, Gore left public office in 2001 worth less than \$2 million. Today his wealth is estimated to be around \$100 million.

Leonnig reports that 14 green tech firms that Gore invested in received or directly benefited from more than \$2.5 billion in federal loans, grants and tax breaks. Suddenly, green tech looks less like a gleaming beacon of virtue and more like corporate welfare, further enriching already affluent investors.

The federal agencies invested in many winners, but they also invested in some spectacular losers, from Solyndra to the battery

maker A123 Systems, which just filed for bankruptcy protection. Private investors can shake off bad investments. But when a political entity like the federal government makes a bad investment, the nasty publicity tarnishes the whole program.

The U.S. government wasn't the only one investing in renewables. Governments around the world were also doing it, and the result has been gigantic oversupply, a green tech bubble. Keith Bradsher of The Times reported earlier this month that China's biggest solar panel makers are suffering losses of up to \$1 for every \$3 in sales. Panel prices have fallen by three-fourths since 2008. Manufacturers will need huge subsidies far into the future – as Bradsher writes, "a looming financial disaster." The U.S. share of the global market, meanwhile, has fallen from 7 percent to 3 percent since 2008. The biggest blow to green tech has come from the marketplace itself. Fossil fuel technology has advanced more quickly than renewables technology. People used to worry that the world would soon run out of oil, but few worry about that now. Shale gas, meanwhile, has become the current hot, revolutionary fuel of the future.

Writing in Foreign Policy magazine, Daniel Yergin projects that in 2030 the worldwide fuel mix will not be too different from what it is today. □



A model displays a creation by Colombian designer Hernan Zajar at the Cali Exposhow fashion week in Cali, Colombia, Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012.

(AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)



Models wear creations by Colombia's designer Andres Otalora, at the Cali Exposhow fashion week in Cali, Colombia, Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2012.

(AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)

Catwalk hierarchy:

Second place is sometimes a win

SAMANTHA CRITCHELL

AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — On the catwalk, Look No. 2 might be worth a second look.

Yes, it's usually the opening outfit — and model — that gets the fanfare, but the next one out can make a strong statement, too.

Zac Posen opened his fashion show last month with Naomi Campbell in a floral, feminine daytime dress. Of course that made a huge splash. It was a hard act to follow, but Isabeli Fontana, who came out in a bold red number, certainly kept the crowd's attention.

It's often that runway runner-up — the one the audience sees after their cellphones go back in

is the first chapter to each collection. It has to draw in the stylists, retailers and editors right away — and be followed by a strong third outfit to fully hook them.

"I wish every look could be important, but for the first three looks, we want to have high impact. They set the tone," Lepore says.

Marchesa's Georgina Chapman and Yigal Azrouel both pick up on that storytelling theme.

Azrouel says he uses the first look as the eye-catching cover art, but it's not always fully reflective of everything else that's still to come. It's from the second look that he'll build a message of consistency, he explains. "It's the second look

until the end."

More often it's the outfit, not the model, that stirs a last-minute switch, says Lepore.

"I tend to clump things together by a color story in the beginning, but you might see that you have too much of your favorite color, or you've used too many of your favorite prints," she explains.

She might not notice until fittings are done, so it's easier to change the order of the models than their clothing.

Lepore says she tries to match the right model to the outfit that's her best color, shape and vibe.

"You have to follow some flow and sequence. You



Isabeli Fontana wears an outfit from The Zac Posen Spring 2013 collection during Fashion Week in New York. On the catwalk, Look No. 2 might be worth a second look. Posen opened his fashion show last month with Naomi Campbell in a floral, feminine daytime dress. Of course that made a huge splash. It was a hard act to follow, but Isabeli Fontana, who came out in a bold red number, certainly kept the crowd's attention.

(AP Photo/John Minchillo)

their bags and they've uncrossed their legs, and after the photographers get the lighting and distance just right — that lingers in one's consciousness.

"The second look is the moment where everyone becomes concentrated and focused. That's where the focus of the show starts," says Posen. "The first look is transitional, and as the first image, it has an impact, but it's the second look that I'd call 'the focus look.'"

Nanette Lepore says she sees the opener as the title page, but the second look

where you realize what you are going to go through."

"You try to put the collection as a story, and you have to consider where the look fits with the narrative," says Chapman, who had Jessica Stam in the second slot following Fontana from backstage this past season. Changes, though, are the norm, right up until the catwalk lights come up. "I do have the sketches in a certain order, but you don't have the lineup set in stone until you have every finished garment," Chapman says. "I keep an open mind

don't want to do a swimsuit and jump right into ballgowns, no matter how good the model looks or who she is," she says.

Still, it's the opener and the finale, especially for show-stopping red carpet gowns on runways such as Marchesa or Oscar de la Renta, that are the most prestigious, says Roman Young, director of image and development at Wilhelmina Models. The second model would be more like the best supporting actress at the Academy Awards. □